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Break

Cheshire spat

A time when more than one education committee chairman is available in his resignation rather than face cuts, Mr Ken Maynard of Cheshire—a noted exponent of the rubber economy—is going for a different reason and in a different way like over his head.

Last Thursday the Conservative group on Cheshire County Council called for his resignation as chairman of the education committee, sacked him from his deputy leadership of the group and removed him as vice-chairman of the policy and resources committee.

The only snag is that he has refused to go, and thus to go on leading the education committee from the cross benches over the heads of his political leaders. The committee is against, but can do nothing about it until the next full meeting of the County Council on December 20 appoints a new chairman under standing orders.

Maynard, who is still occupying his office at County Hall, said this week: "I plan to carry on until they sack me. It has really happened because I put the education of children before party politics."

Meanwhile he has made the issue public himself with a ringing declaration: "I challenge Richardson (Alan Richardson, leader of the council) to debate in public the full circumstances of my removal."

The real circumstances are that Maynard's confrontation style with teachers and parents, and the personality cult he has been developing on television and in the press, have created a climate of opposition to the council which has not helped their cutting plans at all. His intention now to hang on to power for another month is described by one colleague as "a final act of egomania."

The style of his contribution to the debate perhaps came through most strongly at the CLEA meeting in July, when he remarked that the education service would be better when it was cut back to the level of the 1930s. As our own editor Stuart Macleure remarked at the time in his column in another journal: "With allies like Mr Maynard, the education service is in a perilous position. It should feel distinctly uneasy."

"Preserve wild life—Pickle a squirrel."

Black graffiti from a ladies lavatory in Oxford.

Research findings

Fifteen teachers in search of a new work met at Fircroft College, Birmingham, last weekend. They came from nursery, primary, middle and secondary schools. The link between them was that they all believed that teachers should do more research.

The origins of the conference were earlier ones in Cambridge and Leeds intended to tackle action research in classrooms. But the teachers present felt that they had been outnumbered or outgunned by academics. One of them, Jon Nixon, the head of drama at Woodberry Down School, London, approached various funding bodies for a conference dominated by teachers. The Schools Council obliged.

The Fircroft teachers had done pretty varied research. Betty Perry, from London Road nursery school, had set up an experiment about water play because she simply did not believe a finding that children of Jerome Bruner's Oxford preschool research group had reported at a meeting.

The finding was that children did not spend long periods of time playing with the nursery standbys of sand and water. Her study suggested the opposite. But it was not easy since she could not discover in the literature or by letter what the Oxford team meant by a long period of time.

Lee Enright from West Moors middle school, Dorset, had kept a careful diary of her class, discovering a lot about children's responses and how teachers can prevent them from learning. David Jackson from Toot Hill comprehensive in Nottinghamshire had done a close study of first-year class reading. The *Midnight Fox* by Betsy Byars. This changed his ideas about children's reactions to a book.

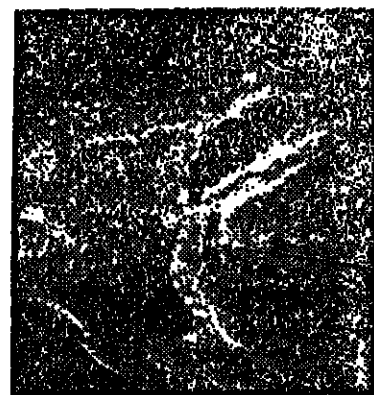
David Gower from Hextable school in Swanley had conducted a small academic project on the learning of chemistry concepts which led to changes in teaching methods at the school. Mike Farr from Gwyre Park junior infants school in Gwent had done work on pollution.

Plethora of different reasons for research and approaches were given at the conference. There was much talk about the need to "dig out the anecdote—the moments which give meaning to reflection and generalization" and how this experience of a teacher (however closely recorded) could be generalized.

Academics were criticized, particularly for involving teachers in projects where the questions and instruments were set for studies that enhanced academic reputations but failed to meet teachers' needs.

Gail McCutcheon, from Ohio State University, summed up the discussion with considerable formal academic language. She listed the benefits of teachers' doing research: Personal growth, understanding and improving practice was one. Giving others a basis to improve their practice was another.

Challenging others' research results was a third, and addressing a specific need was a fourth.



Frog starts

Jumps ahead

The Common Frog, last week's winner of the TES Junior Information Book Award, was produced by two groups of most unknown men. George Bernard, who photographed the life and times of a frog in most intimate and particular detail, is on the staff of Oxford Scientific Films Ltd. A biologist, he has spent a lot of time in South America collecting butterflies and helping to identify new species, and took up photography as a tool to record what he saw.

He found a natural home at OSF, a truly extraordinary film production company set up in 1968 by a group of Oxford University biologists, new Renaissance men brought together by a common interest in film for use in behavioural research and teaching, they combined their academic and scientific distinction with the technological skills to develop the photographic equipment they needed, the creative flair to produce nature films of startling beauty, and the practical commercial sense to sell them to an international market.

They are probably best known for their award-winning television wildlife documentaries (Ramsay, Prix Italia, etc), contributions to the BBC's "Life on Earth", "Horizon", "World About Us" and "Body in Question". But they are also now much in demand for television commercials and special effects for the new generation of big sci-fi feature films like *Superman* and *Alien*, since the equipment they devised for filming natural history can create rare pulsating images and all manner of terrifying sequences. Their skills section has produced the photographs for a clutch of books (and more international awards) including *Window into a Nest* a previous TES book award winner.

The senior director, Gerald Thompson, is a tall, spare man in his sixties who used to lecture in City sent but, like the rest of the team of directors, is just as likely to be found working in shorts anywhere in the world, or in their studios in the Oxfordshire countryside.

The low Cotswold-stone building where they keep vital for days to record the birth and life cycles of insects, birds and mammals, is an unlikely home for the engineering

projects and photographic equipment they have constructed with science fiction names.

The GabiScope, "a multi-axis, video-monitored, tilting, rotating, zooming system with optional underwater housing" is the Pathfinder and Comandante systems which give the camera "total freedom of movement in space and can perform any pattern of rolling, pitching and yawing with gyro-stabilized precision"; the Astroprobe, which is capable of performing "fly-throughs" via a pipeline of 1 mm slit, and means that they can shoot an embryonic chicken through its shell, or a bee through the petal of the flower it is pollinating.

Since they were biologists first and photographers and engineers second, the team of seven directors have shown a refreshing lack of inhibition in devising the technology for their purposes, such as using a magnifying glass as a camera lens.

Something of the same innovative energy, untrammelled by previous experience, has inspired the two founders of *The Common Frog's* publishers, G. Whizzard, Graham Parrant and Douglas Maxwell had a common background in advertising design and marketing when they started the firm in 1975 to publish children's books.

"We thought we could introduce a lot of new talent in the way of illustrators and writers," says Parrant, "and although it was a disadvantage that we had no idea of the mechanics of publishing, the great advantage was that we had absolutely no inhibitions about the people we approached with ideas for books."

Yvonne Nation, creator of the *Daleks*, wrote his first children's book for them, as did Alan Parker of *Midnight Express*, who wrote *Puddles in the Lane*, about wartime evacuees in the country. Nanette Newman's *Fun Food Factory* and Claire Reynier's *Body Book* were both best-sellers which grew out of G. Whizzard ideas. And it was G. Whizzard (the name came from a story written by Douglas Maxwell) who approached OSF with the idea for the *Nature's Way* series, which will soon have climbed up nine titles, including *The Common Frog*, and awards in the United States.

Inspired by the patience and dedication, with which Douglas Maxwell's small, dauntless, observed worms and insects, they thought up the idea of documentary picture books which has led to such fruitful collaboration with OSF. Future developments are only bounded by the world selling appeal of possible subjects, and the dream of a novel. The life-span of a bat, for instance, turned out to be too long; even for OSF.

Tarrant and Maxwell's ideas are now spilling over into adult books too, and they are approaching leading writers with all their verve, "but we do stop and think now before we cross the road."

"Off-hand I can only think of two authors on which I almost never write at all, one being education, in which I find myself simply uninterested," —Bernard Levin.

emptily with three diamonds, but without much hope of seriously interrupting communications. West felt badly from grace with a double, stepping straight into the trap prepared by my "notoriously weak" pre-empt. Maybe he hoped his partner held the ace of spades and singleton ace of hearts, and expected a colossal cross-ruff.

My own poor partner could only pass, resigned to a potential figure loss, and West led his spade. I won with dummy's ace and could see little better to do than take out at least some trumps. If they split 2-2, which I didn't expect, I might be on top. The 3-3 split was not so good. I had to pass East on lead with a second spade.

Now, now compounded his partner's blinding with a second spade. He cashed two trumps, but failed to notice West's 6 of clubs signal. He then cashed the ace of hearts, and led his last spade, seeing up dummy's 10 as I ruffed.

Psychological knowledge of West now provided me with an overtrick. I ruffed with the ace of clubs (from this bid, and the signal), I also knew that he would overtrick me to hold the king, because of my pre-empt. Sure enough, he played low on my 4 of clubs to this turn. West's supposed king, and my club



As far as you're concerned, an education cut is sharpening your pencil

Palace row

Last week's fuss about a children's book wheeled in at Buckingham Palace gave us the visiting President, Indonesia, just shows how bright ideas can go wrong.

It was back in the days when the Palace first started that London schools should be given a good historic State occasion. The Opening of Parliament, the Colour and State visit.

Ever since, regular book 150 tickets or so have been to County Hall for ILEA, to be shared by schools in the Palace or route, and well until some thinking parents complained that it wasn't the sort of President wanted their children's access to. Since this was likely to be shared by a vociferous critic of the regime and its political Pimlico's head, Rodney pleaded fear of demonstrators kept his pupils in school.

Next week

- Warnock's failure to teachers in Jan. 1979.
- The power of parent pressure groups in the Anne Corbett.
- Parents as writers in Barbara Thorne.
- A drama phenomenon in Hilary Spurling's new recent biography of Dickens.
- What gives anarchism during struggle and chaos in Michael Minogue's new book on the writer's life through correspondence.



The Hillside Infants School, Gwent, in full song during the opening night of this year's School Prom. See report, below, and review, page 21.

Counties bid for fee-paying nursery schools

Conservative controlled county councils are keen to charge for nursery education and are now preparing to ask the Government for changes in the law. At present, they are legally prohibited from charging. The councils say that with charges they could keep the nurseries they have, or even expand. Biddy Passmore reports.

Proposals may be included in Education Bill

The Association of County Councils this week set in motion a scheme to charge parents for nursery schooling. The association's influential Policy Committee on Wednesday debated the plan to press the Government to change the 1944 Education Act, and to consider lower charges for poorer families.

Charges for nursery education are outlawed at present. The ACC's demand was in the original shopping list of legal changes asked for by the counties back in the summer.

The proposal will now go before the association's governing committee next week where it is expected to be passed. County members of the education committee have said ministers they favour being able to charge for nursery education. Whether ministers will agree to the scheme and draft the changes to the *Second Education Bill* now going through Parliament is another matter.

Although the idea was rejected by Mrs Thatcher in her 1972 White Paper, *A Framework for Expansion* and has aid to remain unpopular at the DfES. Ministers may be prepared to consider the option now. After all, the concept has some respectable forerunners.

The Plevin Report, 1967, contained a "Note of Reservation on the Organization of Services for Under Fives", signed by, among others, Professor David Donnison (now Chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission). Dr Michael Young (now Lord Young of Darlington), Mr Timothy Raison (now Minister of State at the Home Office) and Lady Plowden herself. It contained the following words: "Extra resources are needed... and will not be forthcoming on a large scale unless the amount of money spent on education is substantially increased." The answer we suggest is a parental contribution.

Split in Oxfordshire, page 3

Early spring for young promenaders

by Ian Kellas

"We are gathered here together," Mr Johnny Morris declared solemnly to the vast assembly to enjoy ourselves. There was a wild outbreak of whistling, cheering and shouting and the din died away to a low murmur as the Royal Albert Hall, the Schools Prom was under way.

A brass band had hushed the excited chatter at the start of the concert and this was followed by a specially commissioned capriccio for wind orchestra. Now there was a slight pause while the posters, the screens and the school banners were given a trial wave and an overgrown teddybear held aloft to get a better view.

A little discreet scene: shifting and the young ladies of Rosbury School were on the platform. "Spring is coming, with sun and blossom," they sang their *Hallelujah*. So sweetly it was almost convincing. A cardboard cut-out of Beethoven in green stripes lay on the floor from the organ loft. Was that a look of grudging approval—or was he just checking that there was no giggling in the back row?

There followed a couple of delicate recorder numbers and a musical fairy story called *Roriphanian Castle*. The promenaders by this time were promenading with casual proficiency. Beyond them the musicians could be seen—some in pinnafores and pony tails (which

This week

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Extra

History: four special pages on the past, present and future of the subject



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NOTICE

The cricket led by Manipuri
Insects with long red horns and
chiggers set the Albert Hall audience
trembling as they swarmed over them.
Even the traffic-jamming UFOs
floating silently above (for aesthetic
purposes) were not immune from
them. The games were like a bonfire.

Baby Elephant Walk, a Dalmatian,
Tango played by twenty

white tuffa flapping out of their
shirts, his eyes gleaming. There
was a great deal of the same
on its feet and bouncing
the galleries school children
scarves were waving vertiginously
above the heads of the
streamers and balloons. Even
elderly uniformed commissi-
was jiggling his knees.

NEWS

Bert Lodge follows the epic legal campaign mounted by a teacher who would not accept that her sacking was fair

The trials of Miss Nothman

Monday was the fifty-sixth day in the odyssey of litigation embarked on nearly three years ago by Miss Nothman, a 64-year-old North London mathematics teacher. Since being dismissed by the London Borough of Barnet from her job at Copthall Comprehensive School in December 1976 for alleged incompetence, her pursuit of justice has taken her to two industrial tribunals and through another, before two employment appeals tribunals, twice along the stone-flagged corridors of the Court of Appeal and once among the leather and polished paneling of the House of Lords.

She has won one famous victory which righted an injustice for every woman in the land. Yet it was a triumph she brushed aside with: "This is not the battle I set out to win. I want reinstatement."

And she kept on the road. Just as she resolved to do on Monday after three appeal judges rejected her plea for reinstatement, she will petition the House of Lords. If that fails her eyes are already on the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg.

The right to compensation for being dismissed, Miss Nothman already has, and an industrial tribunal has been given 15 days from next Monday to start assessing this. But Miss Nothman said on Monday she would "not be submitting any evidence. I reckon the most I can get is about £5,000. I am not interested. It is reinstatement I want though I would probably accept re-employment—another job in Barnet but in a different school."

Miss Nothman's first steps through the legal labyrinth began

early in the spring term of 1976, four terms after she had taken up the appointment at Copthall. After complaints about her teaching, an O level form was taken from her and Miss Nothman called in the regional official of her union, the NUT.

The domestic procedures had started but they did not save her and her contract was terminated on December 31 1976 because she was judged "not able to carry out the duties and fulfil the obligations required of a teacher in her position".

One of her complaints is that although the head visited her classroom once or twice the only authority adviser who came was for science, not mathematics, and she was never observed by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors.

Less than a month after having to leave Copthall, Miss Nothman appealed to an industrial tribunal on the grounds that she had been unfairly dismissed. She was told her case could not come before the tribunal because she was over 60, the normal retiring age for women. It was all in the 1974 Trades Union and Labour Relations Act. The NUT tried to reverse the discrimination against women written into the 1974 Act, Lord Denning complimented her on the admirable presentation of her case.

Just before that judgment, later confirmed by the House of Lords, Miss Nothman said, "If I win here, the my real battle starts."

The first shots were sounded when she appeared before an industrial tribunal early last year. After a hearing lasting 43 days the tribunal ruled that she had not been unfairly dismissed. However, it was a majority—not a unanimous—verdict by the three-man panel.

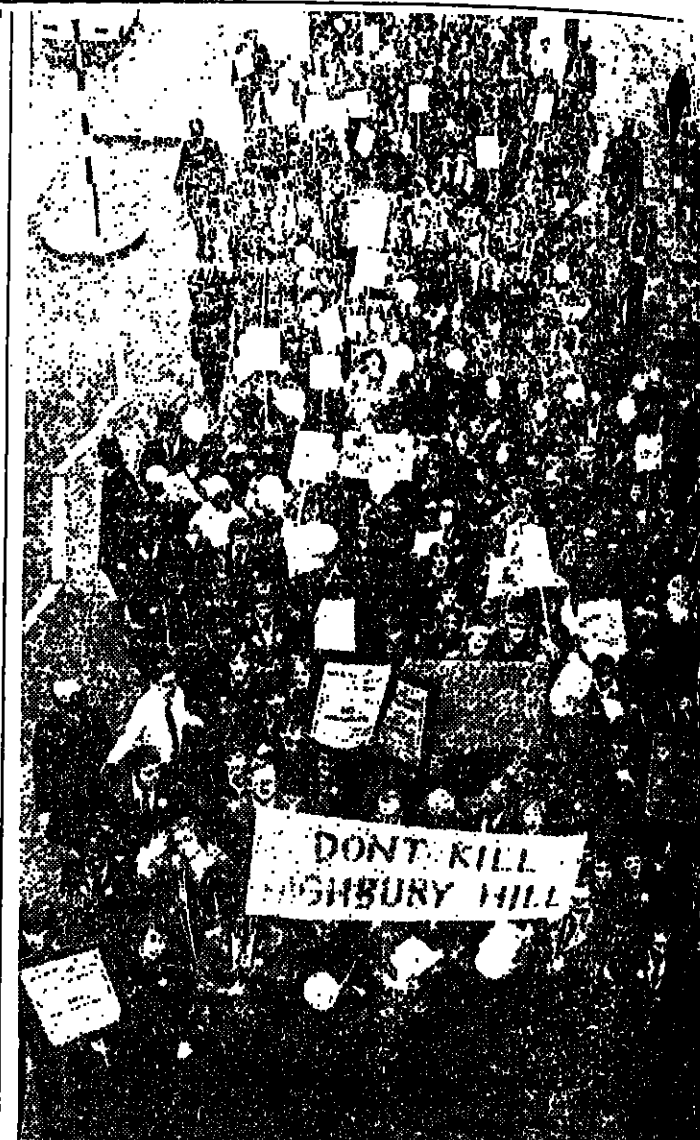
Miss Nothman appealed to the Employment Appeals Tribunal and after a six-day hearing in July and August this year the judgment was set aside on the grounds that the tribunal had failed to take into account the improvement made in her teaching.

But the appeal tribunal still refused to order Miss Nothman's reinstatement, believing that relationships between her and some members of staff would have deteriorated too far.

Instead it decided that there was a case for compensation to be considered by an industrial tribunal differently constituted "from the original".

It was dissatisfaction with this decision which led Miss Nothman once again into the Court of Appeal on Monday. She maintained that it was Barnet's unwillingness to re-employ her which had influenced the appeal tribunal when there was in fact a shortage of maths teachers.

Lord Justice Ormrod and his colleagues were unimpressed. Miss Nothman, though disappointed, is not disheartened. She went home to begin preparing the case for conspiracy she will shortly be bringing against Barnet.



Parents and children marching in protest last week.

Highbury schools wait to hear their fate

The time limit for lodging protests against the closure of Highbury Grove, the North London school, which Dr Rhodes Boyson was headmaster, ran out this week.

Mr Mark Caryle, Dr Boyson's colleague in the Department of Education and Science, is now deciding its fate—and thus of another local comprehensive, Highbury Hill, formerly a girls' grammar.

Both schools face mergers with other comprehensives in Islington, as part of the Inner London Education Authority's plan to reorganize schools in the borough. A vigorous campaign was launched by Highbury Grove, also a former grammar school. Newspapers have contrasted its A level results—40 passes last summer—with the two achieved by Islington Green School, which is to remain open.

The Islington Green governors and head, Miss Margaret Maden, have responded equally vigorously. They point out that when intakes as well as results are taken into account, Islington Green, which in the past has had few children of top ability, has done rather better in examinations than might have been expected.

Last week more than 600 parents and pupils from the two schools marched to the Department of Education and Science to hand in a petition with 40,000 signatures in an appeal to Mr Carlisle to resist the LEA's decision. They were forbidden by the union to take part in the march.

The LEA decided to reduce the number of secondary schools in Islington owing to falling numbers. Between 1978-1986 the number of 11-plus children transferring to secondary school will fall by 40 per cent.

The LEA said that the plan to close Highbury Grove and Islington Green had to take into account the balance of single sex and mixed schools north and south of the borough. Islington Green is only mixed school in the north half.

The Islington Campaign for Advancement of State Education has written to the Education Secretary in support of the LEA's plan, which it says gives full consideration to the needs of the area and support for pupils with special needs. It also says that the LEA's plan is the fairest and most balanced.

Highbury Grove is due to be closed by 1984 but its site, with a Philip Morris site, a smaller comprehensive for boys, three miles from Highbury Hill school, for girls, and a new school for girls on the Highbury site although it burns the larger school, is being made available for use as a school premises.

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Figures for 1978 show the worst offenders appear to be the Roman Catholic schools with Clapham College allocating 41 per cent of their places to pupils in the top band, Mount Carmel and La Retraite 38 per cent, and St Ursula and St Pauls 36 per cent. The research appears in the current issue of *Teaching in London*, a progressive magazine for teachers.

On average a school can expect a quarter of its intake to be pupils from the top band but even before the transfer process had started in 1978 the voluntary schools were allocating at 27 per cent while the county schools were assigned 20 per cent.

The survey is based on figures which LEA say are unpublished and confidential but which TLK claims are obtainable from research statistics at County Hall or the divisional education offices. Of the 20 county schools listed, only four had 25 per cent or more of top-ability pupils allocated in 1978 while 40 county schools had less than 20 per cent. Of 21 voluntary schools, 12 attracted 25 per cent or more top-ability pupils and only six had less than 20 per cent.

The majority are suffering because some voluntary aided schools are taking advantage of dispensations given them—often for religious reasons—in order to maintain a privileged position within the state sector which now supports them.

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NEWS

Hidden selection in city voluntary-aided schools, survey shows

by Sarah Segre

Voluntary schools in inner London are getting more than their fair share of top ability pupils and a new kind of selection within the comprehensive system is being created, according to a survey published this week.

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He was advocating the need for children to become politically literate during a meeting at the House of Commons this week to mark the International Year of the Child.

A formidable body of theory had grown up around sex education, he told the meeting, organized by the National Labour Women's Advisory Committee. It was the duty of teachers to know what the different codes of sexual behaviour were and their implications. It was not for the schools to say what codes had to be followed. It was part of good teaching to be objective about politics.

However, if teachers found it impossible, children usually knew when they were being got at—they were great sceptics.

Professor Crick did not want pupils to be taught government. They could learn how many MPs were in the House of Commons, or how the Town Hall worked and still be politically illiterate.

It was more important to know how to run a meeting, how to keep minutes, which committee to lobby and which book to refer to. It was possible to develop the kind of skills which would at least allow people their rights.

Parents turned to teachers for help where they once turned to priests or doctors, said Mr Henry Pluckrose, head of the Weston School in the Barbican, London.

If schools did not provide a net, society could find itself with more casualties like Maria Colwell.

TLK, 40 Hamilton Road, London SW19. 30p plus 15p p&p.

More political literacy needed, says professor

by Diane Spencer

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Monday's children: the TES competition for primaries

What I do on Monday—and what I'd like to do.

"I do not like English... If I could, I would choose Peter and Jane." Entries are already beginning to come in for the new TES primary competition.

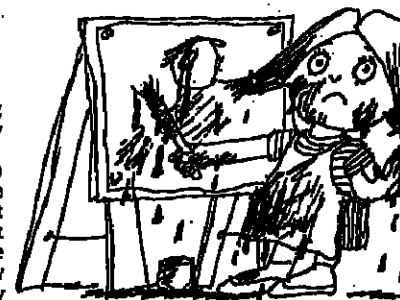
We invite children aged five to eleven in primary and middle schools to write and tell us about some of the things they do at school, and we offer prizes for the best contributions. We want to know what children enjoy and what they dislike; what makes sense and what does not; what seems useful and what is missing that could be important.

The prizewinners will, of course, describe what children do, but they should also offer judgments and suggestions. Pictures are welcome, and we will pay £10 for any we publish (they must reproduce well in black and white). But pictures will not be taken into account in judging the winners.

The first prize will be £30, plus £150 for the winner's school fund. There will be 10 runner-up prizes of £15. Entries should not be longer than 1,000 words (they can, of course, be much shorter). They

should be legibly written or typed on one side of the paper, and each must carry the name, age, home address and school name and address of the entrant. The closing date is February 22.

The competition will be judged by the Editor, and his decision will be final. The TES reserves the right to publish any entry. Correspondence will not be entered into, and entries will not be returned. Entries should be addressed to the Editor (Primary Competition), The Times Educational Supplement, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.



Youth schemes growth delay

The Manpower Services Commission decided this week to defer a decision on its plan to expand next year's Youth Opportunities Programme for unemployed school leavers.

It will wait now until it knows what cuts the Government intends to impose on civil service staffing.

Mr Richard O'Brien, the commission's chairman, said after the meeting at Sheffield on Tuesday: "The commissioners took a clear

and sympathetic view towards the recommendations put before them but decided that they were unable to reach a decision for the present."

The recommendations were for the programme to be expanded by between a fifth and a quarter. They were supported by new forecasts by the commissions' economists which estimate that school leaver unemployment will double during the course of next year.

More teachers, fewer pupils, and slightly better ratios

Numbers of under-fives and over-16s in schools grew last year, along with the numbers of teachers, but the overall school population fell by 103,000 to 8,438,900. Overall primary school numbers fell for the fifth year in succession, but secondary numbers reached a new peak.

According to figures released this week by the Department of Education and Science, the numbers of pupils in nursery classes went up by 9,000 between January, 1978, and January, 1979. The numbers of under-fives in primary schools went up by about 13,000. This meant that 18.7 per cent of three-year-olds and

54.7 per cent of four-year-olds were in school on a full or part-time basis.

The numbers staying on beyond the compulsory school age increased by about 8,000, but this increase is less than that of the peak year of 1977. The numbers transferring to further education at this age has also increased.

Teacher numbers went up by 3,100 to 425,500. Pupil-teacher ratios fell from 23.6 to 23.1 in primary schools and 16.9 to 16.7 in secondary.

DES Statistical Bulletin 13/79 from DES, Elizabeth House, York Road, London SE1.

Colleges best for science

Science and mathematics sixth formers stand a better chance of passing A levels in a sixth form college, according to figures just released by the Association of Principals of Sixth Form Colleges. About half of the 106 sixth form colleges answered the questionnaire.

About 75 per cent of the entrants for A level mathematics from sixth form colleges passed this year, compared with the national average of 68 per cent in 1977.

In physics 77 per cent passed in colleges compared with the average of 71 per cent, and in chemistry 79 per cent compared with 72 per cent.

Sixth form college A level students also seem to do well in subjects like economics; pass rate 77 per cent in 1979 compared with 62 per cent, 1977 national average. The overall pass rate for all A levels in the colleges was nearly 76 per cent compared with the 1977 national rate of 68 per cent.

Four London Leas ban the cane

Four local authorities—all in London—have now banned corporal punishment in their schools. The most recent council to do so was the borough-controlled Waltham Forest which took the decision last week.

Local primary schools have not used the cane for several years, but 27 secondary schools will be affected by the decision which takes effect in April 1980. It was opposed by a pro-cane demonstration at the council meeting last week.

The first authority to ban the cane was the Inner London Education Authority from last September. The new policy affects only LEA secondary schools. The cane was already banned in primaries. It will continue to be used in some LEA primary schools.

New charity secures funds for Nuffield

by Bob Doe

A new educational charity has been set up to ensure a permanent future for the Nuffield science and mathematics projects. For several years the projects have been virtually self-financing out of sales of books and the Nuffield Foundation has not had to provide funds.

The Nuffield-Chelsea Curriculum Trust will handle the work for the projects run at the Chelsea College Centre for Science Education. The Trust's governors are nominated from the college and the foundation.

The 22 Nuffield projects must be the most successful curriculum initiatives. The latest project, Nuffield Curriculum Economics, will be published in 1981. It is for children of average ability in the 13 to 16 age group. It aims at more scientific understanding of nutrition and energy use.

Almost a quarter of all O levels in physics and chemistry are based on the Nuffield curriculum. With biology this original O-level series began in 1966. The revision started in 1975 is near completion.

It was these O-level courses that were supposed to embody the Nuffield spirit: "learning from understanding in a course of practical exploration leading to clear discovery, more experimenting and so on, with a constant interplay between ideas and teacher maintained by a sense of curiosity and enquiry."

The new Trust, established by the Nuffield Foundation, will continue to develop curriculum materials in the Nuffield way, calling on groups of practising teachers and advisers to develop them and trying them out in real schools. The Trust for the Science Teaching Project, for instance, involved 10,000 pupils in more than 250 schools prior to publication.

The board of governors of the new Trust will be chaired by Professor Keith Keohane, rector of the Roehampton Institute and former Professor of Science Education at Chelsea. Professor Paul Black, the college's present professor of Science Education, will be the Trust's chief educational consultant.

Polys fear on overseas student grants

Polytechnic directors are concerned that none of the £1m the Government is giving to help pay the fees of talented postgraduate students from overseas will go to polytechnics.

Fulfilling a promise made when the White Paper on public expenditure was published in October, Mr Mark Carlisle, the Education Secretary, told the Commons on Tuesday that 400 to 500 students would have the difference paid between what a home student is charged and the fee for overseas students from next October.

Mr Peter Flowerday, secretary of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics, said they had noted at the time of the original announcement that only students of excep-

tional calibre in universities were mentioned.

"Nevertheless we are much next week and we shall be much noise. The principle that no fee is being made available for postgraduate work in the public sector has not escaped our concern."

The Government has reduced the minimum fees of £2,000 a year for arts courses and £3,000 for science for overseas students next autumn, the date when most must start paying the economic cost of their studies. Current fees for home postgraduate students are £880 a year.

Out of about 24,500 postgraduate students on research courses in British universities last year, 9,500 were from overseas.

Independent Television for Schools and Colleges

Next Term

PREVIEWS FOR TEACHERS

Next term is a series of three omnibus programmes describing ITV series for schools for the Spring term 1980.

They can be seen on the mornings of Monday 3rd, Tuesday 4th and Wednesday 5th December between 9.30 a.m. and 11.00 a.m.

Monday, 3rd December: Primary Series

- 9.34 My world: 4-5
Finding a space: A new programme introducing concepts of shape, size and relationships.
- 9.52 Seeing and doing: about 6
Fur and Feather: Zoo. Topics aimed to provide teachers with positive classroom material.
- 10.09 Stop, look, listen: 6-7
Wood: Film of environmental topics which encourage language development.
- 10.20 Picture Box: 8-11
The Cow: Programmes to encourage children to express what they feel through writing, art, music and movement.
- 10.36 Local series: Series of TV regions will be showing different programmes, offered locally, as follows:

- Border/SIV: Time to think: 14-18
First world war poetry.
- Grampian: Living and growing: 10-13
Programme 2.
- Yorkshire/Type Tees: Documentary re-run: Age various. A never-seen-to-run.
- Ulster: Hop, Skip and Jump: 6-7
Transporting eggs.
- Thames/Southern: Finding out: 7-9
France.
- HITV: My new lab: abandoned.

Tuesday, 4th December: Junior and Middle Series

- 9.30 Good health: 8-12
Fit and healthy: How we move and the need for exercise, rest and sleep.
- 9.47 Botanic man: Age varies: 8-12
Crucible of life: The evolution of life on earth and insights into the way that separate parts of all life systems are interdependent.
- 10.14 A place to live: 8-11
Aspliter's tale: An introduction to the excitement of field work in accessible locations in town, in suburbs and in the countryside.
- 10.31 How we used to live: 8-13
Christmas: The style of this dramatised history series of Victorian life is illustrated by this recreation of Christmas celebrations.

Wednesday, 5th December: Secondary Series

- 9.31 Teaching French with television.
A film which illustrates the use made by some teachers of French Language programmes and the French Programme.
- 9.52 Starting out: 14-16
Brotherly love: An episode from a ten-part series designed to help adolescents and pupils in understanding and coping with the challenges that face them.
- 10.09 Politics—what's it all about? 15-18
The vote of Behavior: One of a series of documentary films designed to help develop an understanding of politics in the ways that affect the individual at work and in the community.
- 10.31 Making a living: 14-16
No pasaran—Part 1: A drama which, through its study of fascism in the thirties, tries to encourage discussions of racial harmony or prejudice in our society.

Entertainments

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LAURENCE OLIVER

OTHELLO (U)

ALAN ARNOLD
MUSIC BY JOYCE KILMER
CAST: ALAN ARNOLD, JOYCE KILMER, FRANK FINLAY
Directed by Joyce Kilmer
Produced by Joyce Kilmer
Music by Joyce Kilmer

[illegible]

NEWS

Thousands of college lecturers with full-time teaching jobs and generous salaries are managing to run second careers—as businessmen, architects, engineers, solicitors—with the active encouragement of their colleges. And this official moonlighting is likely to grow steadily as colleges look for new sources of income when student numbers fall in the 1980s.

Although some lecturers spend less time in college than on outside commitments, there has been no public outcry. So far, most local authorities, recognizing educational advantages in tolerating some consultancy, have worked out loose guidelines. They have left individual colleges to restrain the worst excesses, and in general this informal system of control has worked fairly well.

But an increasing number of colleges recognize that the time has come for more public discussion of consultancy, and more formal control. The structure of colleges and financial structure of colleges. Consultancy is a portmanteau word used to describe almost all paid work that university and college staff become involved in that is not research in the strict academic sense. It ranges from giving the occasional lecture for a small fee to a huge project advising local industry for many thousands of pounds.

Over the past 10 years most higher education institutions have taken on consultancy in some form, sometimes as the result of official policy but more usually because work has come the way of lecturers with established personal reputations. Inevitably the bulk of consultancy is done in the bigger institutions, but small further education colleges may well have one or two staff members with project or two. Even the old colleges of education are taking on extra consultancy work, for example, advising individual schools on their internal management.

But it is in the polytechnics that attention is currently being focused most sharply on what the largely uncharted growth is doing to the institutions, and on the extent to which it should be formalized. After lengthening years as rather retarded upstarts, polytechnics are beginning to wonder if consultancy is not the first sign of swan's down.

From the earliest days the rationale for the polytechnics as something separate from universities was that they would concentrate on that practical and vocational building strong links with local and regional industry, and serving the local community in a direct way.

This was more than an abstract ideal. Polytechnics started off heavily biased towards applied studies partly because so many of them were created from former technical colleges through industry and the outside world rather than by the sheltered academic route of so many university teachers. But this has not protected the polytechnics from a chronic identity crisis which is likely to become more intense as they start competing with universities for students in the late 1980s.

Students after all are the lifeblood of any institution. For the polytechnics, without the same research emphasis as the universities, student numbers have added significance. They mean income and, above all, jobs for staff and the continuation of departments.

A big increase in consultancy work, bringing with it the fees to pay for staff, would be one way of cushioning the poly against falling student numbers. It would have the advantage of greatly strengthening them in their original purpose and could peacefully withdraw if there were any sudden surge in student demand.

But how much will this threaten the central work of the poly—the teaching of technical subjects—is just beginning to face up to this question.

The initial difficulty is simply that no one knows how much consultancy work goes on, and up to what level. The Council of Colleges, provided it has remained a clearly defined body, has a special role. The Council of Colleges of Polytechnics has been set up to report on the work of its members and their attitudes to consultancy, which has been a major concern since its formation. It is now looking at the details of the polytechnic work, for example, the



The polys by moonlight

Some polytechnic lecturers teach for less than five hours a week, a recent report suggested. Is the temptation of lucrative commercial moonlighting proving too much for them—and for their colleges? Philip Venning investigates

tancy. The eventual aim is to produce a compendium, listing all the specialized staff and equipment available for consultancy work in all polys. Though this is primarily a marketing exercise, it does indicate a new awareness of the need to formalize an activity that has, on the whole, grown haphazardly.

Until recently consultancy was on such a small scale in most college departments that the question of conflict with teaching duties did not really arise. Provided the lecturer turned up for most lectures, what he did otherwise was largely his own affair.

But as the quantity and range of consultancy has grown, so have the pressures. If a lecturer in architecture is commissioned to give some professional advice, he can usually fit in the work when he has time available. But much consultancy work, particularly in lucrative fields, may require the lecturer to be absent from the college for days on end. And because a sizeable amount of consultancy is for organizations overseas, the lecturer may be out of the country for weeks.

Part of the difficulty occurs over the extent to which the consultancy lecturer attracts the contract himself, does it in his own time, and how much it is done in conjunction with the college. In the latter case the work may be done with the formal blessing of the college and some of the fee may go to the college itself.

Inevitably the two become blurred, as emerged in the case last year of London Jones, principal of the South-West London College, who was cleared on charges relating to his consultancy.

The episode caused other panic among several other colleges where similar practices had become well established, and the Inner London Education Authority recognized that it was time some tighter rules and guidelines were laid down by the authority. A working party has now been set up to report on the work of its members and their attitudes to consultancy, which has been a major concern since its formation. It is now looking at the details of the polytechnic work, for example, the

work of its members and their attitudes to consultancy, which has been a major concern since its formation. It is now looking at the details of the polytechnic work, for example, the

there have been any serious abuses they have not reached outside ears. The nature of consultancy which makes it hard to control rigidly and directly.

Increasingly, however, individual polytechnics are beginning to realize that consultancy will have to be regulated, not so much because of flagrant abuses but because there is a huge area of uncertainty where even the most fastidious lecturer can find himself in a morally debatable position.

Bristol Polytechnic, for example, is a typical large polytechnic where almost every department has become involved in consultancy and where a formal system has recently been worked out. Unusually, from its earliest days it was given an extra staff allowance to provide for consultancy and the running of short courses. And now that it is home for the South West Regional Management Centre, much of the industrial and management consultancy is channelled through the centre.

About half of the centre's staff of 66 are involved in consultancy, a handful of whom spend about 80 per cent of their time on it, the rest of their time on the rest of their duties. It all depends on an exercise each summer when the lecturer works out with his headmaster of department and subject chairman how much time he and the department can afford.

To some extent it does depend on the subject. For example, Bristol Polytechnic is one of the few places in Britain specializing in quality control in industry and the demand for its services is no longer restricted to local firms. It is present on those involved is huge, and one lecturer admits that even though he teaches only 13 hours a week, his formal students' sometimes have to take second place.

"We would be in favour of taking on more staff, but you have to go through the traumatic experience of working yourself to the bone to justify the need to the local authority."

Even so, he, like everyone else in the polytechnic involved in consultancy, is absolutely convinced of its overall value in the educational process of the college.

degree or diploma course students are simple: consultancy is a kind of permanent in-service training for the lecturer. It ensures he keeps up to date with the latest developments in his subject and keeps him firmly in touch with practice. The lecturer in consultancy also enables the poly to run costly but educationally desirable courses, and links with local firms help with the placement of students.

In theory all Bristol Polytechnic lecturers involved in consultancy (other than private work) are expected to write up the results of their consultancy in the form of case studies to be used as teaching material. In practice it is sometimes hard to get staff to put in this extra time.

Some consultancy work is directly concerned with the actual products and processes of the poly's industrial clients: the metallurgists offer local industry a 24-hour emergency service diagnosing the failure of engineering components. But a great deal of it, and in particular the work of the regional management centre, revolves around recognizing the need for training and putting on appropriate tailor-made courses. For example, last year the centre helped 11 large local employers solve management difficulties by various in-company training and staff development schemes. It arranged for consultancy courses for publicans on behalf of a large brewery.

It helped electronic research engineers develop an awareness of management; it helped change the management style of a large foodstuff manufacturer.

All this work is channelled through the centre, which charges a fee, and undertakes all the administrative work. But many of the lecturers agree that by and large it is the personal reputation of the lecturer rather than the good name of the centre or the poly which carries the work. So the lecturer often has to answer the question: "Am I being asked to do private consultancy work in my own time, or is this a formal project for the centre?"

The problem for all higher education institutions is that contracts for consultancy work are not always clear-cut. Some, for example, are for good reason, on how much time is legit-

imately a lecturer's own. In the he is expected to put in a full week's work, only about 10 of which will be actually teaching.

The dividing line between other notional two-thirds and legitimate spare time is not easy to draw. Until now in most cases the head of department kept a rough and ready eye on staff to prevent any flagrant abuse. But with a growing recognition as consultancy increases that staff systems will have to be introduced, there will be a general easing up of the rules governing vate and semi-private consultancy. This may not altogether be a thing.

The vast majority of those by technicians are in it for the money, and not for the money; and a handful appear to add more to their salaries by consultancy. But some earn several thousand extra in some substance in the way that the opportunity to do consultancy is one way a college can keep high calibre staff in its midst. Two lecturers in the rem of superfluous and might tip the balance.

At Bristol Polytechnic the consultancy takes place in the auspices of the regional management centre, and is undertaken by varying amounts of cooperation from the college. The biggest of informal consultancy is by professionals—the lawyers, accountants and so on.

The polytechnic's law department, for example, is one of the largest in higher education and makes the constant contribution allowing its staff to continue as solicitors. About a quarter of the 36 law lecturers so. Two of them are "committed" to their private practice; roughly half a dozen do six hours a week; and two have odd time off to visit magistrates' clerks' assistants.

The hand of the department admits that it is a matter of his discretion. "If a staff member has to appear in court at a client at a specific time, we do not pull his weight in a department, then he is exempt from continuing in practice."

Legal procedures are changing and a practice is kept up to date in the law. The creditability and reputation of the department as a whole. Those who keep up their practice do the legal work—the consulting, drafting of wills or what not.

In their own polytechnic work is strictly private and polytechnic expects no share of fee. (Nor could it get it in reality—solicitors are prevented from splitting their earnings.)

But in other departments the lecturer is doing consultancy work on his own initiative but using college time, premises, additional resources such as laboratories, computer time, or, secondly, the polytechnic expects a share of the fee.

The fees charged depend on the number of factors. Some time the polytechnic did an elaborate costing exercise to work out a standard level of fees to be charged against lecturers' salaries for all official consultancy carried out in the regional management centre and elsewhere. The prevailing view is that the college is not in consultancy to make a profit, merely to cover its costs. But there is no doubt that more profitable jobs do exist.

Some consultancy work is perhaps better come under heading of good works for community, where fees are unrealistically small. The department at Bristol, for example, is involved in projects with local planners. In the summer, for example, the department took on a research assistant temporarily to do a study of the qualifications for 1979/80 council. In the early 1980s, the polytechnic was involved in several studies of local employment trends, for example, the impact of the cancellation of Concorde.

The environmental health department believes in taking a long-term view of the local employment trends, for example, the impact of the cancellation of Concorde.

Continued on next page

NEWS

Reading: good teachers 'don't count'

by Virginia Makins

There may be no such thing as a "good teacher" who is successful at improving children's reading progress. A study by Dr John Gray of Sheffield University seems to show that the teachers picked out by heads as especially good at teaching reading are not significantly better than ordinary teachers.

Many research studies into the teaching of reading have concluded that everything depends on the teacher. Dr Gray, when he looked closely at previous studies, found that researchers had taken the finding that no one method of teaching reading is better than another, and concluded that it must be the teachers who made the difference. But this conclusion had no basis in the research—all that proved was a difference between classes.

Dr Gray worked with 41 teachers of top infants in a random sample of 21 schools. Two consecutive years were studied, so that there was data on teachers' work with two different classes. Altogether, there were 1,800 children in the study. They came from working and lower working class schools, so that the influence of parents was minimized. The children's progress over the last seven months of the year were studied, with before and after tests. A "negotiated" view of the

teacher's methods and approach was formed by a mixture of observation and discussion with the teacher concerned.

Given present variations in classroom practice, how large is the teacher effect on reading progress? Are some teachers consistently more effective than others in terms of reading progress? How strongly are teachers' perceptions and practice of "good" teaching related to reading progress?

It turned out that much the most powerful variable, when it came to the progress of a class over several months, was the children's pre-test scores. Of the different teacher variables—teachers who used more or less "formal" methods; teachers identified by heads as "good"; teachers' years of experience—experience made the most difference. But even there, Dr Gray concludes: "If we were able to give the least experienced fifth of teachers in the sample the same qualities (whatever they actually are) as the most experienced fifth, we could expect an improvement in reading progress of no more than two standardised points and probably less."

One reason that this result may surprise teachers, says Dr Gray, is that although there is a great deal

of testing of reading in infant schools, it is used to measure the progress of individual children—and not the effectiveness of their teachers.

It may also be the case that teachers have a powerful effect on children's progress may be wrong. For instance most teachers considered the most important thing for reading, was hearing the children individually.

In fact, on average, children read to their teachers for two or three minutes a day—and even so, there were frequent interruptions and distractions. "It is difficult to persuade oneself that under such circumstances the teacher is doing more than 'supervising' reading progress rather than teaching it," writes Dr Gray.

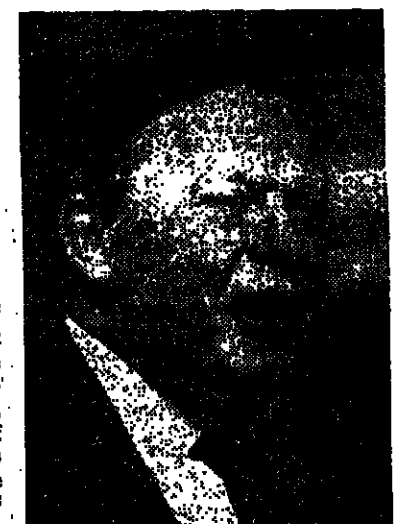
He concludes: "There is plenty of evidence, both research-based and anecdotal, to suggest that we can alter the rate of children's reading progress, but little to suggest we can do so if we retain our conventional patterns of classroom assumptions and resources."

Reading Progress in Infant Schools: some problems emerging from a study of teacher effectiveness. British Educational Research Journal Vol 5 No 2 1979.

Lord Boyle attacks Tory policy

Lord Boyle, a former Conservative Education Secretary and now Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, has made an outspoken attack on the Government's higher education policy. Below we reprint his criticism of the Government's decision to raise overseas students' fees to "economic" levels. He was speaking last week to the Leeds University Council and recalled a meeting with colleagues earlier this year to cover his lecture. "I do not think that the contribution of overseas students to the life of our universities is integral to that life as generations of students have experienced it; without this contribution British universities would be, as Sir Alec Merrison (Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals) has said, 'quite different institutions of much less value'."

Secondly, it should never be forgotten that fully one quarter of Britain's overseas students are here to do research, and they play a vital part in the intellectual and scientific life not only of individual universities but of the whole country. The third point is arguably still more important. All over the world there are men and women, often in positions of security and influence, who have an understanding of the United Kingdom, because they have spent some of the formative years of their lives being educated in this country.



Lord Boyle: "major assault across a very wide front"

If future generations of students find themselves priced out of our own universities, they will go elsewhere, to North America, to other European countries, or to the Soviet Union, and I believe this will be a lasting loss, both political and educational, to this country.

The fees that have been indicated by the UGC in their most recent letter will be far in excess of those charged by the University of California, or any of the major private American universities, let alone universities in the rest of the European Economic Community where fees are negligible. I simply cannot see how British universities can hope to go on competing on the proposed terms, and the consequences may well prove to be not only regrettable but irreversible. In fact the matter goes still wider, because I agree with Professor Ralf Dahrendorf that recent Government decisions seem calculated to give the impression to the outside world that Britain is no longer interested in maintaining its international cultural relations. Along with the huge increases in overseas student fees, there have also been the cuts in the British Council budget, the new but hardly new, and racial-discriminatory immigration proposals (scathingly criticised in *The Times*), and the assimilation by the Foreign Office of the Overseas Development Ministry. When you think of it, it is a major assault across a very wide front.

From previous page

able view of the charges it makes for consultancy. It advises the local authority and industry of pollutants, noise and dust levels and other environmental problems. Only when the department becomes involved in lengthy or demanding work do they charge.

Several other polytechnics have recently been trying to work out a more coherent policy on the organization of their consultancy and some have gone for fairly formal solutions. Like several universities, the North East London Polytechnic has set up a completely separate company to control consultancy.

Middlesex Polytechnic considered doing the same when its existing system of industrial liaison officers came to an end. Instead it set up the Consultancy Services Organisation, a formally constituted unit within the polytechnic, which has been fully operational for two years. During that time the value of consultancy has risen to about £30,000 a year. The main reason for the success, says the polytechnic, is that it has been able to take a long-term view of the local employment trends, for example, the impact of the cancellation of Concorde.

tage of proper back-up. The organization sends out the bills and does all the other paper work; and has the advantage of full professional indemnity insurance and legal backing.

As at Bristol, all consultancy has to be with the agreement of the lecturer's academic boss—in this case, the dean of the appropriate "resource area". So far, no dean has vetoed a scheme outright. According to Peter Warner, one of the two lecturers who administer the CSO part-time: "Many staff think of themselves as, say, an engineer who is teaching, rather than a teacher who is engineering. They often also see the good consultants."

Throughout higher education, and particularly in the polytechnics, the extent to which consultancy should be allowed, to carry on growing is a vexed and somewhat higher controversy. The question so far has largely been brushed aside. Everyone agrees that some consultancy is a good thing. But how much? Should it be encouraged, as a way of making good the expected shortage of staff in the 1980s? Should it be encouraged, as a way of making good the expected shortage of staff in the 1980s? Should it be encouraged, as a way of making good the expected shortage of staff in the 1980s?

Middlesex Polytechnic Courses in Counselling

Middlesex Polytechnic now offers courses for counsellors at all levels from introductory to advanced. The courses are based on the Polytechnic's philosophy of counselling, which is to help people to solve their own problems, rather than to be told what to do. The courses are designed to be practical and to give students the opportunity to apply their learning in real life situations.

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For further information and application forms, please contact the Counselling Services Unit, Middlesex Polytechnic, Hendon, Greater London, NW4 4BT. Tel: 01-629 5555. Fax: 01-629 5556.

COURSES

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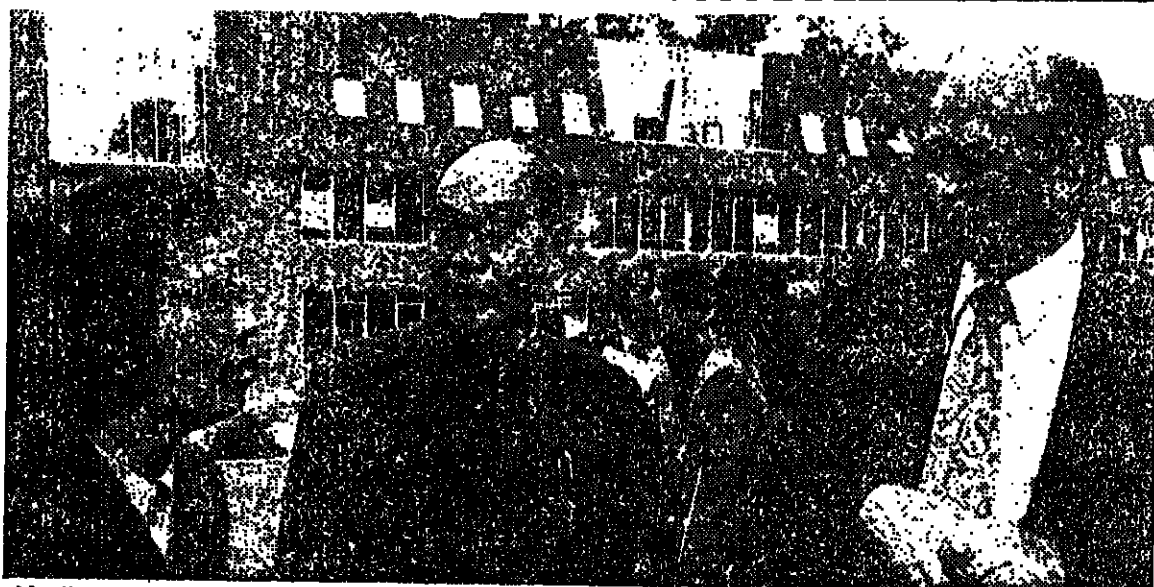
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NEWS



Mr Jiang Nanxiang, Chinese Minister of Education, pictured with Lord Perry, Open University vice-chancellor, during the minister's recent visit to the OU headquarters in Buckinghamshire.

China comes closer, slowly

Progress is being made in Anglo-Chinese educational cooperation, but is it threatened by higher student fees? Hilary Wiles reports

Anglo-Chinese educational cooperation, poised to take a great leap forward since Mrs. Jiang Williams's euphoric return from China 18 months ago, has had to make progress instead in a series of measured steps. Goodwill and mutual self-interest are plentiful, but cash is short on both sides. However, both Mrs. Jiang Williams, Chinese leader, and Jiang Nanxiang, Minister of Education, have visited Britain this autumn. And an inter-governmental agreement on education and culture, signed at the end of Chairman Mao's visit, may open new possibilities to visit China for British researchers in the arts, humanities and social sciences. Until now scholarship exchanges have been limited to the fields of linguistics, languages, history and philosophy, leaving British researchers casting envious glances at the

opportunities available to American colleagues. Before the summer of 1978 only a few students trickled between the two countries. After the visit to China by Mrs. Williams, then Education Secretary, there was excited talk of this trickle becoming a four-figure flood. China badly wanted access to the West's science and technology, and help with its expanding English language programme; Britain wanted access to China for its researchers and, more importantly, strengthened cultural links with what could become a major market for British goods and services. But no one had seriously considered administration costs, or who would pay them, and by the autumn of 1978 Mrs. Williams was willing to her Chinese colleagues suggesting that the placement of 250 students and researchers in Britain would be a reasonable target for 1979-80. There are now 38 undergraduates here, and about 300 post-graduate and post-doctoral researchers. A further 140 post-graduate applications are being processed. The majority have been placed by the British Council, although the Royal Society and the Chinese Embassy in London have also made placements. But no more undergraduates are

to be sent here, Mr. Jiang said during his visit to Britain. All students and researchers need several months' intensive language tuition on arrival, but the younger students have proved to be so badly below standard that they are all now studying for English A level before starting their degree courses. The placement of post-graduates is proving more rewarding. All are senior scientists and technologists, often in their 40s or 50s; all graduated before the Cultural Revolution of 1966 disrupted university patterns, and many are eminent in their fields. Their specialisms range from fishing technology to aerospace, and they are spread in universities from Strathclyde to Sussex. University colleagues say they are quiet, diligent and hard working, and some universities have been prepared to reduce bench fees in exchange for the chance to pick up Chinese brains. Through such individual placements, links are evolving between university departments here and in China. Initially the Chinese were keen to twin entire universities, but British administrators tend to favour the less formal (and cheaper) academic link schemes which bring together researchers working in the same field. Two senior Chinese botanists, for example, are currently working with colleagues at the

Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew under such an exchange scheme.

The flow of students, researchers and teachers from Britain to China has been on a much smaller scale. There are now just 25 post-graduate researchers there on scholarship exchanges, and 23 undergraduates, although the British Council has a recently-appointed cultural attaché in Peking to handle the growing cultural exchange programme.

In the wake of Mrs. Williams's visit, China asked for 50 to 70 experienced English language teachers to go out on six-month to one-year contracts. But the salaries offered, although high by Chinese standards, were unattractive to specialist British teachers. Previously, English language teachers had been recruited privately, and their ideological commitment to the People's Republic tended to override financial considerations. At present the British Council hopes to recruit up to 10 subsidised teachers for 1980-81, and the scale of further developments will depend entirely on cash available.

Meanwhile three teams of senior English language lecturers go to China to run eight-week courses each year, and support is being given to institutions for which China specifically wants help, among them Chengdu University in Sichuan province, in the remote west of the country.

Three British education delegations have been on exploratory visits to China this year. One looked at academic standards, one at English language teaching and one at scientific teaching equipment. And the Chinese have been buying British educational equipment, including £15,500 worth of Open University films.

Educational links with China could lead on to big business for Britain. But there are fears that the recent hike in fees for overseas students studying in Britain might encourage the Chinese to look elsewhere for their scientific know-how. They so badly need The United States has offered China between 500 and 700 university places for 1979-80, while West Germany, France and Canada have each asked to receive 500 Chinese students.

So far there has been no reaction from China to the announcement of new fee levels, but money to fund their education programme is known to be tight. New arrivals to the country have to be found inexpensive hotels, and recent batches of students have been coming via the Trans-Siberian Express, rather than by the more expensive air link with Paris.

SPORT

'Gym for all' schemes run short of fuel

by Stanley Levenson

School fuel-saving policies to winter will bring almost a complete halt to the slow movement towards community use of sports amenities.

Reports from different parts of the country indicate that many local authorities are restricting the use of school premises for sports organizations in order to save fuel and power.

The traditional winter sports such as badminton, table tennis and volleyball will suffer. This has already happened in the London Borough of Haringey, where the after-school closure of a badminton club deprived the 12-year-old Gillian Gilks, of her usual training.

Paul use has long been official policy of governments, sports ministers, the Sports Council and enlightened local education authorities such as Suffolk and Gwent. Hector Moore, the sports minister, said, when still a "shadow" minister, that the government might consider legislation to oblige local authorities to open their doors out of hours where they had valid reasons for not doing so.

Fuel saving versus dual use short-term economies versus long-term benefits—it will certainly be a topic for the Open Door movement which has now been mentioned by the Fair Play for Children organization.

The group has issued a pamphlet arguing the case for the schools to open their doors out of hours for a wide range of children's activities, not just sport.

The pamphlet ("Why Let Our Schools?") shows that provision is fragmented, based on four separate departments of state (education, health, environment and the Home Office), a recipe for back passing.

It also indicates that even authority (central or local) seems to be waiting for some other authority (local or central) to take the first move. Fair Play currently says that this is up to the local authorities which control schools and school buildings.

The pamphlet is not just critical; it gives some excellent examples of what is being done in such places as London, Birmingham, Southampton, Ipswich, Evesham and Gwent.

It also makes a number of sensible suggestions on how local authorities can operate in this respect and has produced a campaigning wall chart for parents and organizations.

Dual use of schools is almost a Catch 22 situation. Everybody, including the public service, but not the public service, supports the idea, but the movement has been painfully slow in most places over the few years.

In any case, let us be quite clear on one point: no one is suggesting that either of these two books be banned. For those who have the language (for artistic or religious reasons) both the King James version of the Bible and the BCP will be available not only to be read privately, but also to be heard.

In the meantime the Church of England will be endeavouring to present the Christian Faith as a really live option in a world which is nearing the twenty-first century. PETER SHEPHERD, 3 Bakersfield Road, Eastbourne, East Sussex.

LETTERS

Stress for heads without power to hire or fire

Sir.—I have not had access to the precise words of the management panel in its formal submission to the Clegg commission on teachers' pay. But their reports indicate a claim that attention should be paid to the limitation on a head's managerial responsibility, i.e. they do not have the power of hiring and firing.

It is because we do not possess this power that we endure stress. Because we cannot fire an incompetent teacher, we have to rage impotently outside lesson doors, manufacture lame excuses to parental complaints, accept responsibility for pupils' failures (the shame and humiliations of this!) and make apologies in diplomatic language to Governors, HMIs and others. If I did have the power to fire an incompetent colleague, a week's remorse and a sharp twinge of regret would be short lived.

If heads could hire and fire incompetent or idle non-teaching staff (fortunately not my particular problem in this school, but certainly the case in schools well known to me), we would have cleaner schools, more contented staff and pupils and a more civilized environment. Only employers remote from the stress and strains caused by incompetence in raw, living schools would make such hiring claims. I have received no help from HMIAs, advisers or administrators in these human matters for the simple reason that their hands are equally tied.

This is not to say that teachers, practically alone in society, should be subject to dismissal for incompetence when every other man and his dog, protected by powerful unions, are also not subject to the sack. When governors make bad appointments (in defiance of heads' advice if it is asked) they can get up and walk away. I have to stay out of a difficult problem of public confidence" deserves attention. But his later paragraph, suggesting that "a school can engineer a high total of (Oxbridge) open awards by insisting that candidates pay for scholarships at weaker colleges even though it might be in their interests to go for a stronger, where the teaching is especially good" (my italics), seems to fall into the very trap against which he has just warned the reader.

What guide to college form could he have used? The exam results as published in the well-known Nottingham Table? I am sure Dr. Rae would not stoop to such humbug. But I should be glad to know if he can explain how our own assessment system may prove useful for solving the problem of judging the performance of a school.

DR. I. P. GRANT, Pembroke College, Oxford.

Contraception: forbidden topic

Sir.—I am extremely concerned to learn of the action taken by the education minister, Lady Young, which has resulted in a question on contraception being censored from the Associated Examining Board's November Human Biology O level paper, and I would like to take issue with her on two points.

She is reported as saying that questions on contraception are more suited to subjects other than biology. I do not disagree that this topic does have a place in other courses, such as religious education and social studies, but it would be extremely foolish to preclude its teaching by those specialists with the necessary anatomical and physiological knowledge.

There is an inference that biology teachers cannot be trusted to deal with this topic. As a biology graduate with over 20 years' experience in the integration of health education into the biology syllabus, I resent that implication.

Lady Young also says that setting questions on contraception is indicative of lack of concern with the moral and religious welfare of children. As a senior examiner with the AEB for many years, I would say



Ah, Craggs. It's about your essay, "What my Daddy does for a living".

Wrong book...

Sir.—It is with considerable concern that I read (November 16) that your journal has made an award to the publication *Make It Happy* by Jane Cousins, published by Virago. I write as a schoolmaster who is disturbed by the current exploitation of the adolescent.

Make It Happy is one of the publications which encourage young people to have sex, while playing down the risks involved in respect to the failure rate of contraceptives, disease (including cervical cancer), and the emotional and psychological dangers. It also deals most specifically with sexual perversions as if there were a natural approach to sex.

The Cheshire Health Authority has expressed grave concern about publications of this sort which, they consider, make the young people

... right book

Sir.—Congratulations upon your re-appearance in print to help defend those liberties which still remain to us, by encouraging that free flow of information and opinion so essential to their preservation.

In particular, your Information Book selection panel has set an example by its choice of Jane Cousins's *Make It Happy* for its so-called permissive age, to go against the attitudes of hubris and prudence which are so rife in and out of our schools, and against the

Exam form guide?

Sir.—John Rae's "Personal Column" of November 16 makes several thought-provoking points. His assertion that "to compel schools to publish exam results is to take a cheap and amateur way out of a difficult problem of public confidence" deserves attention. But his later paragraph, suggesting that "a school can engineer a high total of (Oxbridge) open awards by insisting that candidates pay for scholarships at weaker colleges even though it might be in their interests to go for a stronger, where the teaching is especially good" (my italics), seems to fall into the very trap against which he has just warned the reader.

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DR. I. P. GRANT, Pembroke College, Oxford.

Pay row

Sir.—The differences in the last Burnham negotiations were not between Mr. Casey and myself, but between the NAS/UWT on the one hand and all the other organizations on the other. The views I expressed were those of the large majority of the teachers' panel.

Stephen Cohen was wrong to suggest (November 16) that "the NAS/UWT wrung a concession from the management that Clegg's conclusions could be negotiated and even sent to arbitration, if there was disagreement". There was never any question of the Burnham Committee asking Clegg for recommendations which it would have to accept. Throughout it was agreed that Clegg's report would be followed by negotiations in Burnham and recognized that if those negotiations broke down, arbitration could follow.

The abortive NAS/UWT five-hour day action affected nothing and changed nothing in our respect. The same can be said of the episode which is not mentioned—the much publicized but empty threat of the NAS/UWT to take legal action against either the Secretary of State or the Burnham Committee.

FRED JARVIS, General Secretary, National Union of Teachers.

Two-year degrees more useful says former vice-chancellor

by Bert Lodge

Britain has too many universities but not enough higher education, says Sir Charles Carter, former vice-chancellor of Lancaster University and director of the Policy Studies Institute.

He claims too many students follow a three-year course beyond A level, but are not suited to anything longer than two years. Others, intimidated by the prospect of a three-year degree course, do not enter higher education at all though they could probably benefit from a two-year course. Not for both groups almost no two-year courses exist.

Sir Charles also challenges the assumption that more and more highly educated people are needed as technology advances, thus justifying the proliferation of higher degree teaching.

Writing in the *Three Banks Review*, Sir Charles suggests that more two-year courses would reduce some universities to university colleges offering just first degrees. Some polytechnics would cease degree work altogether and would be subsumed among up to 200 "community colleges" where the two-year courses would be located.

The remaining polytechnics would be encouraged to develop non-degree work as their major activity thus reversing the trend of polytechnics in recent years.

No fewer than 456 institutions are expected to offer higher education in the next five years, but after questioning the arguments for a general expansion of higher education in

order to meet economic needs Sir Charles concludes: "It is not possible to deduce from the economic requirements a justification for the present size and shape of British higher education."

Sir Charles challenges the argument that education is a good thing in itself. "How do we avoid an open-ended commitment and decide the point at which the marginal increment of education is not worth its cost?"

Students' embark on three-year degree courses because of the weight of past tradition and not as a result of any genuine educational assessment, he maintains. "My personal view is that at last 20 per cent of those taking degree courses would gain more benefit, in terms of personal development, and contribute more to the community, if they could leave after two years without the stigma of failure or of leaving work half done."

Up to 35 institutions would offer first degrees, Sir Charles says, and each would also be offering research in some subjects which would be taken to higher levels. Another 50 institutions would offer first degrees only, with as many as possible also offering a significant scale two-year courses of higher education. A further 200 institutions would offer two-year courses and short courses only.

The *Three Banks Review*, published in 1979, Royal Bank of Scotland Group, 35 Abchurch Lane, Edinburgh.

Switch policy on teenage crime, Government told

by Mark Jackson

Studies by Home Office criminologists are throwing doubt on the Government's "law and order" approach to teenage crime. They indicate that it may be more effective to spend money on tackling the effects of rising youth unemployment than on enlarging the police force.

One paper from the Home Office research unit, based on Home Office and British evidence, says that more intensive policing has little or no effect on crime rates. Another study says preliminary analysis suggests that British experience may bear out American findings that youth crime is closely related to unemployment figures. It cites records of borstal and prison admissions of teenagers.

The link between unemployment and youth crime is confirmed by Professor Harvey Zeeman, Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University, who is applying to Britain the

models developed from long-term studies of the effects on physical and mental health of unemployment in America. Professor Bronner told the Home Office that the National Council of Social Service had identified a close relationship between the youth unemployment rate and the incidence of suicide, homicide, accidental death, armed robbery, and rape. He said that it was a great mistake to cut back on social "repatriation" services to youth in a period of economic instability.

A number of police authorities in the United States, he said, were becoming interested in the studies as a possible pointer to more effective ways of reducing crime.

The Home Office paper on police effectiveness says that rising crime rates are unlikely to be stemmed by increases in police manpower unless one envisages increases so vast and intrusive as to transform the whole basis of civil life.

Family appeals over border battle

A family has appealed to the Education Secretary, Mr. Mark Carleton, for a ruling on a six-month border battle over the schooling of their children.

The Presbiterian family, whose school is in Northumberland, but who live just inside Co. Durham, are education authority there will not allow their children to cross the border for lessons.

Instead, County Durham Education Committee is insisting they go to another school, 12 miles away across remote countryside.

The children, Nicolas, aged 11, and Claire, six, have not been to school for six months since moving reluctantly agreed to their children going to schools in Co. Durham while their appeal to the Education Secretary is heard.

New badminton award scheme

The National Association of Youth Clubs has inaugurated a badminton award scheme, backed by £5,000 sponsorship over three years.

The association hopes the award will draw more young people into youth clubs to play badminton, and at the same time to raise the level of skills.

Mr. John Bateman, sports officer of the NAYC, hopes that this initiative will help bridge the gap between school and club sport by offering young people a chance to participate in a scheme which will give them the support of the Badminton Association of England.

The award has the support of the Badminton Association of England, the second recent sponsorship for the game. The National Girls' Bank has agreed to a three-year £10,000 backing for the age group championships organized by the English Schools Badminton Association.

Opinion of the majority

Sir.—We would like to express our support for Bert Lodge's "Sins of Omission" (November 16). May we draw your readers' attention to the major petition on this issue and the supporting articles in *PN Review* 13, Christ Church, Oxford, published by King James, published by King James, published by King James.

Our own experience suggests that Bert Lodge expresses

Compulsory Welsh: no justice yet

Sir.—The *TES* featured a one page report (December 1, 1978) on the Bangor/Llandudno controversy over Gwynedd's policy of compulsory Welsh. Since then, after initial orders which encouraged parents to believe their rights were being upheld under Section 76 of the 1944 Act, the Secretary of State for Wales has, on a point of law, conceded the right of the Gwynedd authority to implement its policy of compulsory Welsh up to the end of the fifth form, subject to temporary "concessions" to the parents of the two schools involved in the present controversy.

Mr. Edwards' decision has been received with cynicism and dismay, particularly in Bangor where some 100 parents are attending the English-medium comprehensive school have withdrawn their children from Welsh lessons. All the evidence points to a continuation of parental opposition to the authority's policy of compulsory Welsh.

Two other major considerations continue to disturb parents. The first concerns the adverse effects upon the career prospects and further education of some pupils, if Welsh is to remain a compulsory subject beyond the third form. This particular point assumes even greater significance in the light of the Government's intentions to introduce a national core curriculum.

Such intentions have been pre-empted by Gwynedd which has already decided that Welsh shall be a core subject up to the end of the fifth form. In the event of an internal action of this kind, determination of a national core-curriculum clearly cannot be left to the discretion of I.E.A.s, particularly as the Second Education Bill leaves detailed decisions about the composition of governing bodies to local authorities, thus ensuring overall local authority control.

The second major concern is over the adverse effects of coercion upon the promotion of the Welsh language within the school and the community. There is a growing belief, by no means confined to the group of parents involved in the present dispute, that Gwynedd's justification for its language policy is based upon bigotry and idealism.

The reality of the situation is that there can be no social cohesion until justice is done: the Government must legislate within the Second Education Bill, to protect the right of all parents living in Wales to freedom of choice over the teaching of Welsh.

E. M. ROBERTS, Bangor.

OVERSEAS NEWS

West Germany

Unemployment soars as pupil numbers decline

by David Dungworth

Almost one in 10 teachers is unemployed or working short time according to the teacher union the Gewerkschaft Erziehung und Wissenschaft (GEW). Unemployment and short-time working have risen by 40 per cent over the past year.

A survey of the situation at the beginning of the present school year based on figures supplied by the Länder education ministries and local authorities, showed that 7,850 graduates with the First State Examination have been unable to find probationary posts and 9,785 who have completed their 18 months' probation and passed the Second State Examination have been refused permanent appointments.

Over 30,000 qualified teachers are on temporary contracts offering them one half, two thirds or three quarters of the normal number of hours per week. At least a further 21,000 employed for less than half a full teaching week are being paid at hourly rates. Hardest hit are primary and secondary modern school staff since these are the areas in which West Germany's declining birth rate has caused the greatest drop in pupil numbers.

GEW president Herr Erich Friester has accused the Länder governments of deliberately promoting teacher unemployment in an effort to keep down the cost of education. It was causing widespread resentment and a high turnover of staff which was making it impossible for

many schools to provide continuity of instruction, he said. He has called upon the Länder minister of education to implement a six-point programme to recruit some of the 100,000 additional teachers whom the GEW claims are needed to ensure that all lessons timetabled in secondary schools actually take place. This involves:

- taking on as many new staff as necessary to reduce classes to a maximum of 25 per cent.
- cutting teaching hours so that teachers, like other civil servants, are not required to work more than a 40-hour week.

- introducing in-service courses to retrain teachers for subjects like mathematics, sciences, physical education and music in which the present shortage of staff is expected to persist for several years.

- lowering the retirement age of women teachers to 60 in line with that of women in other professions.

- allowing experienced staff to switch from full-time to part-time appointments.
- setting up a national information and planning service to coordinate staffing requirements and recruitment throughout the Federal Republic on a long-term basis.

Soviet Union

Poor evening classes make Russians reluctant to study

by Kenneth Shaw

Further education through evening classes and correspondence studies is to receive much closer attention in the Soviet Union. This follows a Ministry of Education report highlighting the poor organization of evening schools, the indifference of students, the stress on homework and the inadequacy of lecture methods of teaching.

Last year the student drop-out rate was 55,000 out of a total evening and correspondence course registration of about 4.9m. Further education of this kind is seen as an essential means of strengthening links between primary production, industry and schooling. Rural areas are poorly served, and students working in construction, trade, retailing, food and transport are notoriously indifferent to afterwork study.

Schools should be opened in large factories, collective and state farms and in other places of work so that young Russians can complete their secondary education and gain a knowledge of how the Soviet Union earns its living, the report says.

Surveys show that evening students are actively working in only 16 per cent of lessons and in only 24 per cent of group consultations. For the rest of the time they are preparing to do their homework. Teachers in further education institutions overburden their students with too much homework, according to the report. One major research centre found students facing a weekly workload of 55 pages of reading, 14 written assignments and 33 primary sources to be studied. This required 20 hours of work, but most students could find only 10 hours for the job.

The Soviet Government has agreed to provide free textbooks for evening students starting with the fifth grade in 1981, and finishing the plan with the ninth grade in 1984.



Refugee children of Sa Kaeo: is the question of their schooling academic?

Asian refugee camps should aim to provide schooling

Minimum standards for refugee camps in South-East Asia are to be recommended in a report to be presented to the United Nations High Commission for Refugees in Geneva next month, John Walshe writes from Bangkok. The report covers education, work opportunities, sanitation, shelter, engineering, nutrition and medicine.

Such standards are desperately needed. Although international attention currently is focused on the problems of fleeing Kampuchians, refugees are not a new problem in Thailand, Indonesia or Malaysia.

There have been large numbers of "displaced persons" from Laos and Cambodia in Thailand for more than four years. At the end of last month there were nearly 165,000 in Thai camps and holding centres. One hundred and forty thousand were from Laos, 7,500 from Vietnam and 16,500 from Kampuchea. Since then the fighting within Kampuchea has worsened and Thailand is bracing itself for anything up to 300,000 more refugees.

Organizational problems are immense and standards vary widely from one camp to another—hence the UNHCR request to the Thai relief agency, Concern, to draw up a report.

Education in the camps is obviously a lesser priority than saving lives. But it is nevertheless important to the large numbers of children who have to live in the

camp for months or even years. Concern is expected to recommend that all long-stay children get some compulsory schooling, and that those going to the West get language teaching and some preparation for the culture shock they will inevitably face.

But at present such recommendations seem academic, at least to the children of Sa Kaeo the best-known Kampuchean refugee camp in Thailand. In fact the camp is so renowned that tourists have been reported taking cine films of the refugees, and permission now has to be obtained to visit it.

To Western eyes, television gives some small preparation, with its news pictures of gaunt staring faces and wasted diseased bodies. But the numbing reality is far worse, filling the first-time visitor with a sense of helplessness and shock.

Even here, though, the full dimensions of the tragedy are hard to grasp. According to an Oxfam report, virtually all intellectuals and professionals were exterminated by the deposed Pol Pot regime (out of 550 doctors only 54 managed to escape by disguising themselves as peasants) which also systematically destroyed all symbols of Western capitalism, including schools, in a purge of "unbelievable savagery and brutality". The latest estimate is that some five to six million Kampuchean survivors, from a 1975 population of seven to eight million.

Italy

Employers reject job scheme

from Dalbert Hallenstein

VERONA An ambitious youth employment scheme approved by Parliament in August 1977, has proved an almost complete failure, according to a Labour Ministry report released in month.

The employment scheme was intended to encourage private employers and state authorities to take on more than 600,000 young people for periods not longer than two years. There are an estimated 1,500,000 unemployed young people in Italy, more than 60 per cent of whom come from Italy's underdeveloped south.

But according to the report only 53,000 have found jobs through the scheme in the past two years, though more than 800,000 young people actually applied. Most of the successful applicants have found jobs with state or local government departments, but the Labour Ministry has described the response of the public sector as "extremely disappointing".

In the private sector most employers have flatly refused to collaborate with the scheme, despite significant financial and tax benefits to companies which take on unemployed young people.

One of the main complaints of prospective private employers is that once they have registered their needs at the local labour exchange they are forced to accept the person selected by the labour exchange and cannot legally send him away if he is unsuitable.

The labour exchange appointment system is extremely complex. Once an unemployed young person has registered his local exchange, his name is put in a list which corresponds roughly to the type of work he wants to do or is qualified to do. If the applicant is married, has a family, supports aged parents or has other obligations, he will be awarded a certain number of points. And those with the most points go to the top of the list and are the first to be given jobs.

In Naples last year the first person to be appointed was a 21-year-old father of five. He had been placed at the top of the list because he was the most "deserving" according to the labour exchanges' appointments criteria. But according to his unhappy employer he was totally unsuitable for the job.

Numerous similar cases were reported and, not surprisingly, the response by the private sector to the new youth unemployment scheme was extremely cool. February of this year the government, after listening to the complaints of Italy's various industrial associations, decided to change the appointments system, allowing employers to interview and appoint applicants sent to them by the labour exchanges.

But since then nothing has been done to alter the system of appointments. A new law must be passed in Parliament. But a long series of political crises, punctuated by general elections, has paralysed most legislative activity. And the little prospect of change is being challenged by the law being changed.

Even if the law were changed, there is little likelihood that private employers would then begin to employ the young people under the terms of the scheme. For most employers, the 1977 measure is a dead letter. The 12 months fixed by the special youth employment legislation, the unions might force the government to extend the year into permanent tenure.

Such is the strength of the unions' position that the weakness of the government's position is hardly hidden. The unions have very little faith in the government's intention to extend the scheme for 12 months or two years, and are demanding that the government should extend the minimum leaving age of 18 to 16.

OVERSEAS NEWS

United States

Calls to bring back the draft as volunteer numbers drop

from Clive Cookson

WASHINGTON

American colleges and universities have long been aware that they will be competing fiercely for a shrinking pool of potential students during the 1980s. Only now, however, are they beginning to realize that the armed forces will have to raise the same pool to meet their manpower requirements—perhaps by bringing back the draft.

The military establishment is also beginning to appreciate the demographers' message and the "potential for conflict between the military and the colleges and universities", says Harry Harrison, president of Long Island University's Southampton College and author of two books about military recruitment. According to the Senate's leading military manpower expert, Sam Nunn of Georgia, the four services (army, navy, air force and Marines) will need to recruit one out of every two fit and qualified men, either for active duty or for the reserves, by the late 1980s.

The forces already being trouble attracting enough volunteers. The fiscal year 1979 (which ended on September 30) was the first period since conscription ended in 1973 in which all four services missed their recruiting goals. The deficit was worst in the army, whose shortfall amounted to 10 per cent of its target of 158,000 new recruits.

Since the recruiting problem first became apparent at the end of last year, several bills have been introduced in Congress to restore compulsory national service in some form. The more modest proposals would merely reintroduce registration of young men (and, in some cases, women) of military age.

In other words, the proposal for conscription without actually bringing it back until the manpower shortage becomes more severe.

Others want to go further. Senator John Stennis, the 78-year-old chairman of the Senate armed services committee, has spoken in favour of a 15- or 18-month period of compulsory military service. It would have to be a "fair and equitable" system, he said, with all 18-year-olds liable for selection by lottery—and without the elaborate system of deferments and exemptions that made the draft so unfair during the Vietnam war.

In the House of Representatives Rep. Paul McCloskey is proposing a full-scale system of national service, with various options for military or civilian service. Additional educational benefits would encourage people to opt for the armed forces.

However, the majority of congressmen are not yet ready even to reintroduce registration. In September the House of Representatives voted 252-163 against an attempt supported by its armed services committee to revive Selective Service registration of all 18-year-old males. The generals and admirals who make up the Joint Chiefs of Staff want to restore Selective Service registration for men and women, but President Carter apparently feels that the country is not ready for it.

Student organizations have of course come out strongly against registration or any other move



American infantrymen on manoeuvres: would conscription mean more intelligent soldiers?

towards conscription on the national level. The United States Student Association has made opposition to the draft a major priority. However, attempts to organize anti-draft demonstrations among the current quiet generation of students have not been very successful. Fewer than a hundred turned up for what had been billed as a mass rally against the draft in Washington recently, but up to one thousand students have demonstrated against the draft at some universities, where they have been addressed by Vietnam era protesters.

So far the political debate has focused on the military need for conscription and whether the all-volunteer forces are working. There has been very little analysis of the possible effects on education, though the American Council on Education recently set up a committee to look into the question. The effects will depend partly on the generosity of the educational benefits the conscripts would be given when they leave the forces. If the Government is prepared to pay their way through college or university as lavishly as it did for the veterans of the Second World War, conscription could eventually increase postsecondary enrolment, after a short-term decline.

The low educational achievements of today's army recruits are used as an argument by proponents of compulsory service, who say conscription would bring in better qualified and more intelligent soldiers and sailors. Two of the country's leading military sociologists, James J. Finkle and the University of Chicago and Charles Moskos of Northwestern University, have published an extensive study of the all-volunteer forces, showing that they are attracting fewer men with high school diplomas and far fewer with any postsecondary education, than in the 1960s, even though the proportion of graduates in the age group has risen substantially since then.

One third of today's army recruits failed to complete high school and only five per cent have had

any experience of college (compared to 14 per cent of volunteers in 1964). Older studies have shown that a quarter of recruits read at or below 12-year-old level.

Another argument for the draft is that it would restore the forces' social balance. The work of Janowitz and Moskos shows how unrepresentative they have become of American society as a whole. They rely mainly on two separate sources of volunteers: blacks (who now make up one third of the army's recruits) and poor uneducated whites. The latter are even more likely to be high school drop-outs than the black recruits.

Today's army enlisted ranks are the only major area in American society where black educational levels surpass those of white and by a noteworthily margin. Janowitz and Moskos point out:

"Nevertheless, Professor Moskos said: 'I myself am not a proponent of bringing back the draft. I think the volunteer force can work if the educated middle classes are brought back in.' The only way of doing that he believes, is to provide educational benefits good enough to attract college-bound youngsters."

Ultimately, Professor Moskos said, the Government may have to make military service a condition for obtaining a student grant or loan—an idea that the education lobby might find even less palatable than the draft. This month the House of Representatives took a first step in that direction by voting to allow graduates to write off 20 per cent or \$1,000 of a federal student loan each year spent in the armed forces.

One third of today's army recruits failed to complete high school and only five per cent have had

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Australia

Survey shows child ill-health

from Bill Purvis

SYDNEY Australian children are a sickly group, according to evidence in a new survey of the country's schools.

One in three children aged five to 14 is taking medicine on any given day, and about one in four suffers from some chronic ailment—usually bronchitis, asthma or hay fever. One child in eight loses a day's schooling every two weeks through illness.

The figures are part of a statistical survey by the Australian Schools Commission, called *Australian Students and their Schools*. It is intended to give a statistical picture of Australian schooling and covers teacher-pupil ratios, enrolment, teacher health, family background, employment prospects and tertiary education.

On enrolments, the report shows that between 1974 and 1977 there was a steady decline in pupils, mainly because of a fall in primary school enrolments. The proportion of private schools is about 20 per cent, but this proportion is dropping. The secondary sector is nearly 40 per cent and is the subject of

much heated controversy over the quality of government schooling.

Another contentious area at present is teacher-pupil ratios. With unemployment high among trained teachers there is continuing pressure to employ the teachers by reducing class sizes. Teachers in New South Wales, for example, say 4,000 unemployed teachers could find jobs if class sizes in secondary schools were cut from 30 to 28 pupils.

The report says that teacher-pupil ratios are actually about one to 21 in government primary schools and one to 13 in secondary schools. However, these figures include support and administrative staff.

On population trends, the report finds that a falling birthrate is already having its effect on schools. The birthrate has fallen steadily since 1947, from 24 per 1,000 to 16 per 1,000 last year. This has had the effect of creating a statistical "hump" in student numbers—reached in 1974—and numbers will fall steadily during the next 10 years, from around 3m to 2.8m.

To some extent this will be offset by the trend, noted in the report, for more pupils to stay at school beyond the minimum leaving age of 15 or 16.

EEC

Education cooperation outlined

The work of the EEC in the field of education is described in a brief primer just issued by the European Community.

The *European Community and Education* explains why education is a matter of Community interest, and describes progress to date since the 1972 meeting at education ministers from the member states. In 1976, the first programme of educational cooperation was adopted. This covered various areas, including the education of migrant workers and their families, closer cooperation between national education systems, the improvement of foreign language teaching, and equal opportunities of access to all forms of education

throughout the Community. The implementation of this programme is now being monitored by an education committee. In addition, specific work on the transition from school to work has been initiated.

The pamphlet points out that the treaties under which the various European Communities were set up make few explicit references to education, but does not elaborate on the difficulties that this has led to in trying to develop educational cooperation between member states.

The *European Community and Education* is obtainable from 20 Kensington Palace Gardens, London W8 4QQ.

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OVERSEAS NEWS

End of the book-loaded quadrupeds?

Ziauddin Sardar on the
attempts to develop a new
educational order in
post-revolutionary Iran

The new academic year got off to a turbulent start in Iran. But despite the alarming eleventh hour resignation of Gholam Hussein Shokouhi, then Minister of Education in the Bazargan government, and the prospect of yet another academic year filled with student unrest, teacher shortages, delays in the textbook distribution and a vast array of administrative problems, schools, colleges and universities opened at the end of September.

Most of Iran's educational problems stem from the plans of the revolutionary leadership to create a new educational system that reflects Iran's Islamic outlook. As Dr Ali Shariati, Deputy Minister of Higher Education, who still retains his position, says: "We aim to replace the existing education system, as soon as possible, with a system that is based on the teachings and principles of Islam."

A planning committee of the Revolutionary Council is working on a new direction for Iran's educational system. The plan is thought to emphasize self-sufficiency in education and is based on Iran's future manpower needs.

Meanwhile a number of changes have already been implemented. Boys and girls in mixed schools are now segregated. In a number of schools foreign (European) languages, art and music courses have been eliminated from the curriculum. Some textbooks have been replaced and a number of old textbooks have been reprinted minus the portrait and history of the ex-Shah.

A few days before the schools opened, the results of the first post-revolution university entrance examinations, *konkur*, were announced. The examinations, held in July, attracted the largest number of entrants ever. A total of 546,491 applicants, 166,652 of them women, participated in the nationally-held contest for only 40,000 university places, but the failure rate was exceptionally high with only eight per cent passing.

The plight of half a million high school students who failed to secure a university place is particularly tragic. Those who can afford it have opted to study abroad and there has been a mass exodus of students going to Iran with most students going to the United States and Europe, although Pakistan, India and the Philippines are also popular. Pakistan, in particular, is popular with women students seeking an Islamic environment. Before its close, the United States Consulate was receiving some 2,500 applications a day for student visas.

The Government is obviously not happy with this situation and has come up with a "special plan" to increase and make the "colleges absorption" capacity "unlimited". However, the plan could not be implemented this year and its implementation next year is a subject of speculation.

The Government is also concerned about the Iranian students studying abroad. These now total 200,000 and the foreign exchange sent to these students is 18 times the total amount of Iran's foreign currency. The Ministry of Culture, Science and Higher Education has asked members of the Revolutionary Council to ensure that the money could



The campus of the University of Tehran is now a regular site for Friday prayer. On the front row, in black, is the former Prime Minister, Mehdi Bazargan.

be used to expand the educational system of Iran.

Much of the Government's concern, however, is directed towards the universities. Many of the changes have affected the universities more seriously. A number of dismissals as well as the self-exile of professors and administrators has robbed Iran of its most qualified university staff. At the beginning of the academic year, the "purification committee" of the University of Tehran dismissed 175 members of academic staff for suspected past associations with SAVAK, the ex-Shah's brutal secret police. Similar developments have also taken place in other places and most universities are facing a serious shortage of qualified academic and administrative staff.

The changes in university administrations have not, as yet, proved successful. The university administration is to be divided between academic staff, students and employees. While some universities are still being administered on the traditional lines, the University of Tehran is run by a committee with representatives from the academic staff, students, clerks and labourers. By the committee's own admission the arrangement is not working well.

The revolutionary government has also changed the names of most of the universities and reorganized some of them. The Azad University of Technology is now called Tehran University of Technology, the University of Azadabad is now the University of Azad, the Farah Pahlavi University is now the University of Azad, the Farah Pahlavi University is now the University of Azad, the Farah Pahlavi University is now the University of Azad.

Fifty-three colleges and higher education institutes in the Tehran area are being merged into one large university. Reza Shah Kabir University has been renamed the University of Mazandaran and almost all colleges and higher education institutes in the Mazandaran area have now been brought under one administration. The University of Azad, which was founded in 1977, has been dropped. Although its name will be retained, it will be changed to a new educational policy.

Iranian students have answered the call of Ayatollah Khomeini to study abroad. They will, like their predecessors, study in the United States, Europe, Japan, and elsewhere. The students' stage of the American Embassy, which

in the month students Meshkin Jam Agricultural College in Sari, occupied after similar occupations in Tehran by groups of students and university students. Occupations, in protest against shortages of student housing, a chain reaction with students of the University of Tabriz at universities in Northern Iran, including Sul.

There is no immediate sign that, or any other of Iran's education problems. An education that produces, to use the words of Khomeini, "whole well-formed humanly" and quadrupeds loaded with cannot be developed.

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Where Warnock went wrong

Ian Lewis and Graham Vulliamy

criticise the Warnock

Committee for failing to

acknowledge that social

factors can play a

major part in the definition

and creation of

special educational needs

One advantage which may result from the lack of growth in educational provision is the possibility that the enormous cost of implementing the recommendations of last year's Warnock report may not now be met.

In saying this we do not want to present an image of callous disregard for those who might be most in need. The reverse is true. The most significant of the Warnock recommendations, far from helping to resolve the problems of children with special educational needs, are more likely to prevent the real problems from being recognized.

Since the late 1950s the intention established in the 1944 Education Act, to have a permanent monitoring body, an advisory council, has significantly changed to a system in which each advisory committee is uniquely established, with a limited brief to examine one aspect of the education system in isolation from all others. Thus, while the education of all children is legislatively established on a principle of continuity between the ages of 5 and 16, both its organization and the system of monitoring operate on principles of selectivity and discontinuity.

Each major report—and the roll call is like the Cenotaph in listing martyrs to the larger cause—on sixth forms, secondary schools, primary schools, teacher training, has appeared, shed a little light on one corner of the educational world, and then disappeared from the scene. The analogy with the Cheshire Cat is most striking. It, too, appeared and disappeared at will, and had apparently disappeared effects on those on whom its glance fell.

The most significant effect of reports like Warnock is, to set, one part of the system against another in the desperate search for scarce resources. Rather than support the initial advisory function, each advisory committee becomes a pressure group engaged in special pleading for its own particular concerns. Nowhere, other than through the DES or the LEA, is there an opportunity for conflicting priorities to be adequately resolved for the overall good of the system.

People in positions of power thus have an easy escape route should they wish to turn a Nelsonian blind eye on some pressing problem. The Warnock Committee have, like their predecessors, fallen into the hands of the bureaucrats and, in not recognizing this in the framing of their report, they will, like their predecessors, commit a fatal error. They have, like their predecessors, failed to resolve the very problems they were asked to address.



"Like the Cheshire Cat, each major report appears and disappears at will."

The committee can be further criticized because of the approach which they adopted. Here we wish to draw attention to the underlying—and occasionally explicit—use of a psychological perspective, which sees the problems associated with special educational need as being the result of some kind of "illness" to which the pupil is subject. This is not surprising when it is recognized that the membership of the Warnock Committee contained no one with any explicitly sociological expertise.

For the last 10 years or so it has been generally and increasingly recognized that "problem areas" in education are intimately bound up with questions of social definition and labelling practices. It is precisely because the report neglects any serious consideration, that social factors might play a considerable part in the definition and creation of special educational needs, that this absence of one critical professional perspective is of such significance.

It is, after all, within the sociology of education that the emerging concerns for the effects of teacher labelling practices on the designation of educational problems began and has developed. In addition, through the work of such people as Paul Willis, attention has also been drawn to external social and cultural factors, which suggests that pupils themselves can play a critical role in ensuring that they are treated as "problems" in the eyes of school establishments.

Most recently the major study by Michael Rutter and his colleagues—*Fifteen Thousand Hours*—has shown the possibility that schools influence pupils' academic performance via such things as "academic emphasis, teacher actions in lessons, the availability of incentives and rewards, good conditions for pupils, and the extent to which children were able to take responsibility".

The combination of such studies seems to show clearly that unless direct attention is given to the actual practices and procedures, which characterize schools, there can really be little hope of achieving any satisfactory understanding of how particular outcomes emerge. To begin consideration of the problems associated with children defined as being in special educational need, on the basis of a consensus with establishing complex diagnostic edifices, is to beg the question.

The Warnock Committee rightly establish that one of the major problems associated with current practices lies in the system of "categorization of handicapped pupils by type of disability or disorder" on the ground that "Cate-

gorization perpetuates the sharp distinction between two groups of children—the handicapped and the non-handicapped."

It is, therefore, doubly unfortunate that in their recommendations they appear to have proposed the erection of a vast bureaucratic edifice, which is likely to perpetuate sharp distinctions between the one-fifth or one-sixth of children of school age who fall into their category of special educational need, and the remaining majority whose educational needs are presumably not special.

It is in trying to get themselves out of this dilemma of their own making that the Warnock Committee create the situation which is likely to exacerbate rather than resolve the problems they recognize.

Thus, in order not to fall into the trap of categorization, they have recourse to such a wide-ranging definition of special educational need that it can readily be seen to refer to the total school population. They then have to ensure some kind of system which will allow them to reduce the incidence of special educational need to more manageable proportions of roughly 20 per cent of the school population.

Their definition is that special education "encompasses the whole range and variety of additional help, wherever it is provided and whether on a full or a part-time basis, by which children may be helped to overcome educational difficulties, however they are caused". Unfortunately, the way in which they whittle down this definition to ensure that it only applies to a minority of school pupils, rests on their interpretation of a variety of research studies, each of which, in different ways, incorporated teacher completion questionnaires as part of an approach attempting to identify special educational needs.

Each of these questionnaires embodies some kind of category system to allow the identification of children already receiving special help—in special schools or in ordinary schools—or else considered to be in need of some special provision. Thus category systems—without their attendant problems of social definitions, and the imposition of officially accepted values (all problems which sociologists should immediately recognize)—are incorporated in a situation explicitly designed to eliminate the problems seen to be associated with the utilization of category systems in the first place.

This of itself would not necessarily be a major ground for criticism, if it could be shown that a new implicit category system was superior in some way to the one which is being replaced. However,

the Warnock Committee compound their initial error by making a major feature of their recommendations a proposal for the development of a multi-tiered diagnostic system—elaborated in Chapter Four and further developed in Appendix Three.

This system, believe it or not, begins with the first three stages explicitly encouraging predominantly teacher recognition, diagnosis and interpretation. After this the "experts" become primarily involved—including advisers, child guidance and child psychiatric teams, all of whom serve to emphasize the earlier point about the psychological perspective leading quite naturally to the idea that it is the child who is educationally "sick" and suffering from some kind of "illness" which needs identifying and treating.

That the "disease" may result from the context and organization of education, and the consequent actions and interactions of those directly involved, is clearly precluded from such an approach. The very question which the committee was established to resolve is begged in the very procedures recommended for its solution. Two examples might suffice to show how the committee have misinterpreted the evidence at their disposal and on which they have built their recommendations. One is, perhaps, of less importance than the other. Both, however, indicate the same signs of blinkered vision.

As part of their procedures designed to ensure that the edifice of labelling will continue on a more "informed" basis, the committee recommend that all teachers in training should go through a course on special education. The nature and content of such a course is unspecified, but the reasons for suggesting it becomes compulsory rest on the evidence of a Scottish survey of teachers' opinions.

Twenty-eight per cent of the respondents felt inadequately prepared for teaching handicapped pupils, and 61 per cent said that the topic had not been dealt with in their training. However, 58 per cent felt inadequately prepared for teaching slow learners, even though some 94 per cent said that the topic had been covered in some way.

This evidence is at least open to the interpretation that the provision of courses in initial training is counter-productive in ensuring teacher preparedness. Such a proposal raises questions about the interpretation and use of statistical evidence in the report.

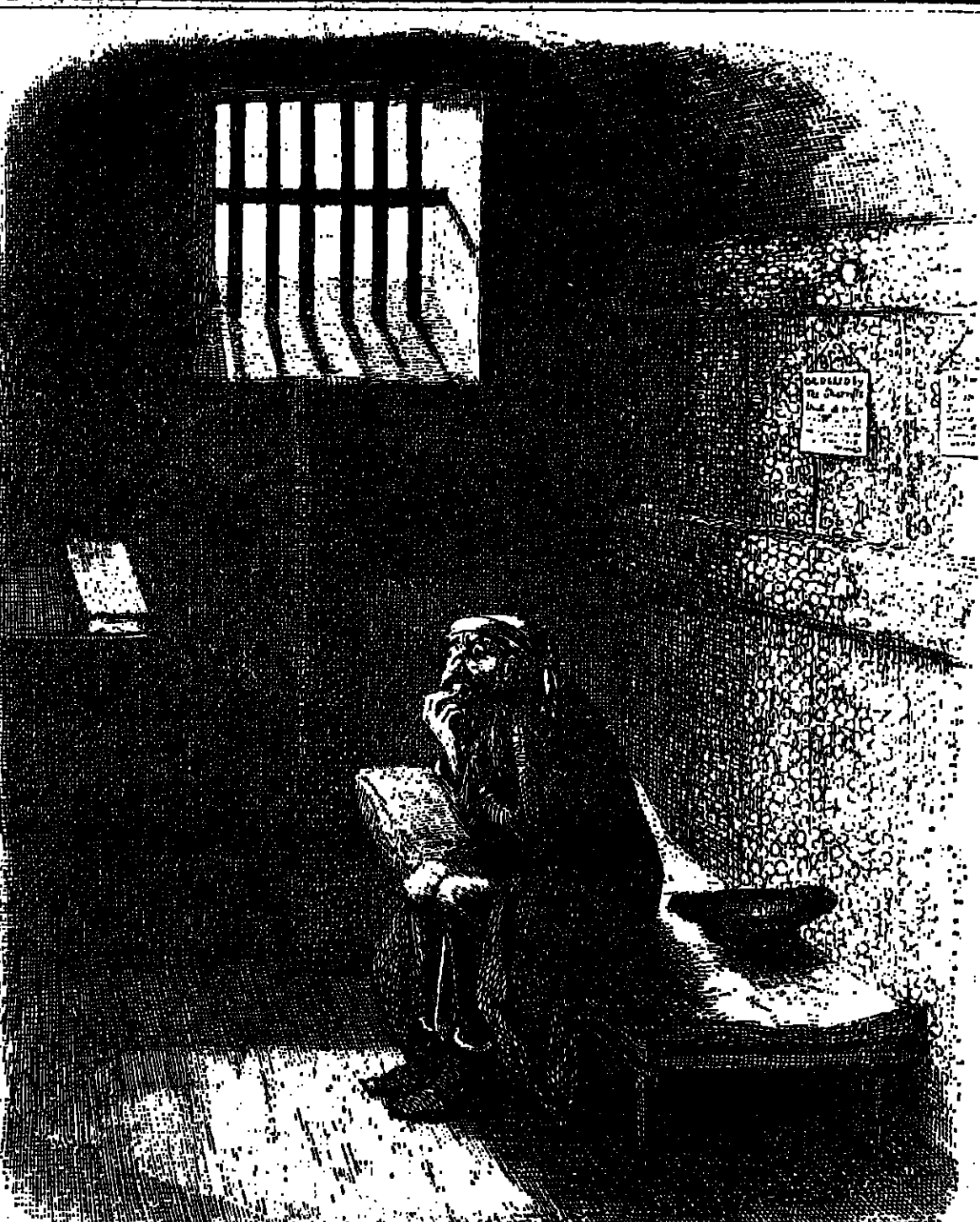
Perhaps of greater significance in terms of specific recommendations, though, is the evidence contained in one of the pieces of research used to produce the figure of 20 per cent to cover those pupils in special educational need. This survey was into the extent of behavioural problems in the Isle of Wight.

Of the 59 children with IQs below 70—the present borderline of the SEN category—28 were in ordinary schools. These were generally less educationally backward than the seven children with IQs above 70 who were in special schools. This survey, coupled with other findings of which we could expect the committee to be aware—casts at least some doubt on the efficacy of present educational arrangements, as well as upon the categorization system which produces such allocations.



A dread Phaenomenon

Although
Charles Dickens
never
burrowed deep
into the
hidden sources
of his
behaviour, he was
haunted
by furies which
made him
feel a monster to
his family
and terrified of
himself.
Hilary Spurling
looks at
a recent biography
and an
older reissue



Fagin in the condemned cell. One of George Cruikshank's illustrations to an 1846 edition of Oliver Twist.

Dickens: A Life. By Norman and Jeanna Mackenzie. Oxford University Press £8.95. 1921174 6.

Charles Dickens, His Tragedy and Triumph. By Edgar Johnson. Penguin, £2.50. 0048 95 2.

Norman and Jeanna Mackenzie's new life of Dickens comes sandwiched between two famous portraits. The first is Daniel Maclise's radiant painting of Boz when both artist and letter were giddy youths dashing about town together in tearing spirits, or posing down to Windsor where Dickens prowled the castle grounds in transports of love-love jealousy while Maclise went inside to work on the young Queen's wedding portrait. He had painted his friend in black velvet with a rouch of white at the wrists, a graceful, even girlish figure whose glossy chestnut curls, bright eyes and frankly confident expression make it easy to see why his contemporaries found the young Dickens irresistible.

Just over 20 years later Dickens was photographed looking gaunt and far older than his 50 years; his skin cloth, his dark face seemed and crumpled like his clothes, tenor painfully evident in the set of his mouth. This is the man who, as his son Charles said, could signal an outbreak of temper simply by the look on the back of his head. The grim despair and restlessness which he himself described to Wilkie Collins dominate his life, the furies that had driven him to the private quarrel with his publishers, bully his family, cruelly humiliate his wife and cut old friends who tried to comfort him. It was four years since his marriage had ended, and he had simultaneously embarked on that gruelling, dazzlingly successful series of public readings which would eventually kill him. The photograph shows the private Dickens behind the public emblem of patriarchal benevolence: the man who, as he told Collins, tried frantically to escape from himself. For when I do sleep up and stare myself sedately in the face, as happens to me very often, I certainly find it inconceivable—indeed, ghastly—my misery arising.

The story of what happened to turn Boz's brilliant prime to premature white is perhaps one that can't be told too often, certainly one that has been told a very great many times between Forester's 1872 biography and Professor Edgar Johnson's monumental double-decker in 1952. The Mackenzies make up bones about having nothing particular to add to Johnson beyond generally bringing him up to date in the vast and well-cropped field of Dickens research: there is the kind of regular trim required by any well-kept biography every quarter

century or so, though it is perhaps a trifle eccentric not to mention—in what seems a decidedly ungenerous acknowledgement to Johnson—what he himself brought out two years ago a revised, single-volume edition of Charles Dickens, His Tragedy and Triumph.

One cannot help feeling that this new 'stimulus' Johnson (which comes minus the somewhat prosy critical chapters, and has now been offered on every count better value than the Mackenzies. They are sharper and simpler than their predecessor but not nearly as copious; and they quote far less, having evidently been at pains to refile the many, cruel, autobiographical passages on which all Dickens' lives have traditionally been built. Inevitably parts of their narrative read like an 'obstacle race' in which the aim is not so much to explain but rather to negotiate as smoothly and speedily as possible such bulky but familiar terrain as the blacking factory, Mary Hogarth's death, Mrs. Dickens' tears over Ellen Ternan's bracelet or Dickens' himself weeping into his daughter Kate's wedding dress.

Like Johnson, the Mackenzies favour a certain deceptive banality of style, only where his is plain and direct, theirs is positively 'readable'. Dickens was a part of his times and at the same time a man apart. Dickens had a gift for involving his readers in the emotions of a story, whether they were humour, pathos or tragedy. This hopelessly obvious is perhaps natural, but it is an author so preternaturally good at Dickens on anything from a minuscule story's cabin ("The pillows are no thicker than crumplets") to the dependence of his wife's maid ("a moral cork jacket") or in this splendid rendering of congratulations from the aged Macready after a public reading: "It does—no, really Dickens—amaze me as profoundly as it moves me. . . . How is it got at—how is it done—er—how can one man—well? It lays me on my back, and it is of no use talking about it."

Many biographers have been similarly laid flat by Dickens's life. The Mackenzies on the whole take Macready's sensible advice, assessing the novels more for effort than achievement, and taking it as their cue to explain, and sketch, and negotiate as smoothly and speedily as possible such bulky but familiar terrain as the blacking factory, Mary Hogarth's death, Mrs. Dickens' tears over Ellen Ternan's bracelet or Dickens' himself weeping into his daughter Kate's wedding dress.

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Brightest and best

Nicholas Wapshott at the London Film Festival

Xen Wlaschin, the director of the London Film Festival, has been much talked about this year. If the Festival has a purpose, it is to bring to British filmgoers a brief glimpse of the most notable films shown at the world's festivals. A second and no less important function is to bring these films within sight of the British film distributors. When successful, this second thread gives the Festival a lasting influence upon the British film scene.

The criticisms heaped upon Wlaschin have been that he has simply not been able to attract the best and brightest films. The list of those which are missing from the programme is long and impressive. The most conspicuous absences are Bernardo Bertolucci's *La Luna*, the Taviani brothers' *Il Posto*, Schöndorff's *The Tin Drum*, Francis Ford Coppola's *Apocalypse Now* and Chris Petit's *Radio On*.

Whatever Wlaschin might claim about the quality of the films, for instance, he thinks that *La Luna* is not good—the reason they were not seen at the Festival is that the distributors would not provide them. The timing of the Festival gives an excuse. *Apocalypse Now* is released at Christmas and Radio On opened yesterday and distributors may not want the thunder of their openings stolen by an event so close to their own premieres. But the fact remains that the London Film Festival is not an important enough event to change their minds.

For a roundup festival, to cooperate with distributors to provide them with an almost crippling setback. Another problem for a festival of this type is that the year's crop may not be a good one. This year's festival, for instance, includes some second-rate films by major names. For example, commercial pressures on Satyajit Ray to work for a larger audience resulted in



from Jancsó's Hungarian Rhapsody.

the disappointing *The Elephant God*, a slight whodunnit saved only from banality by some perceptive satire.

Nor, despite some splendid acting, was Andrzej Walda on top form with *Rough Treatment* of a Polish journalist's marriage. It was along the lines of his excellent *Man of Marble*, still at the Academy, but proved to be neither deliberate in its purpose nor daring in its observations of the petty tyrannies of Communist Poland. Ironically, those missing qualities were present in Krzysztof Klesowski's *Camera Buff*, also from Poland, in which Walda appears briefly as himself, advising an amateur film maker whose hobby leads him out of his depth with his local party boss.

Federico Fellini's *Orchestra Rehearsal* was amusing enough, particularly in its relentless ribbing of musicians and their vanities. But, again, it is not a major work.

But there were some pleasant surprises. John Huston, aged 73 and more often misused as an actor than a director in the last 10 years, provided the gritty *Wise Blood*, a sharp portrait of a young man, played by Brad Dourif, who trails around a city in the Southern States, purging his over-religious past by preaching for his own Church of the Truth Without Over the Edge, once a sappy Christ. This American entry made romance, the other a piece of undisturbed exploitation, neither of which ought to have been placed in a serious filmgoers' festival.

It was also a delight to find Miklos Jancsó back on brilliant form with *Hungarian Rhapsody*, the first part of a two-thirds completed trilogy which explains Hungarian political history this century much as

the imagination by its unflinching honesty and its failure to give explanations for the post-war state. Another film from West Germany, *Night Paths*, confirmed Krzysztof Zanussi's talent. Despite its apparent modesty, it was, for me, the most enjoyable and accomplished film of the Festival. It explored a seldom portrayed but often discussed aspect of the Nazi imperialist machine: how civilized, intelligent men convinced themselves that the awful Hegelian morality of the Third Reich was not merely plausible but correct.

The Festival despatched its domestic duties by studying the British independent film makers, laughably labelled 'The New British Cinema'. Derek Jarman's *The Tempest* sets out to be accessible to his young audience without diluting the subtlety of Shakespeare's text—an aim which, I think, will prove to be overambitious. In contrast, Carlo Gualer seems to know exactly what can be achieved with *The Beneficiary*, a thoroughly competent piece of storytelling which sets Chekhov in Ireland amid the muffled, class-based resentments of the abused but dignified peasantry.

Finally, the best British comedy for many years is about an unexpected subject: the boredom and frustrations of the young unemployed in Glasgow. *But Sinking Feeling*, by Bill Forsyth, is a most enjoyable social comedy with an almost Ealing sense of time and place, employing the natural humour and talents of members of the Glasgow Youth Theatre. Like so many other examples of inspiration, the wonder is that nobody thought of the idea before.

Year of the gifted child

The Schools Prom reviewed

It was as if our suspended year had never been. The months telescoped back into the November focus of the Albert Hall with its ever-abundant source of hope and glory as the first night of the annual Schools Proms came to an end.

For those familiar with the format, there were few surprises: the heterogeneous music and musicians of the two big orchestras, at start and finish, the polished introductions by director, Derek Jewell; the guest composers/performers, this year Johnny Morris; the television cameras; the waving flags, banners and teddy bears. The group of boys from over 100 different troupes of dancers from Imperial, India, to the accompaniment of three musicians, enacted exquisitely a 1,000-year-old temple dance.

But if 1979 was the Year of the Child then the Schools Prom was the Gifted Child. Like fragile exhibits lost in a vast Victorian

chamber group could have a Chamber Prom of their own in a more appropriate building.

This year the big blockbusters—the highly professional, Wallall Youth Jazz Orchestra with the cunningly original 'Make a Joyful Noise' (Dominic Spers) and the Ceredigion Youth Orchestra with Terence Judd, piano, in Liszt's 'Fantasy on Hungarian Folktones'—were almost drowned out of existence by riotous handclapping and footstamping. Perhaps because it was early in the evening, or perhaps because the Saint Sains was a wise choice, Caroline Dale, 14-year-old soloist in his Cello Concerto in A minor, was rewarded by near silence: her performance (with the Cleveland Youth Orchestra), although marred by frequent faulty intonation, was a good example of the School Prom at its most successful.

Twelve year-old Christopher Moulds is already, it seems, a noted pianistic prodigy, having played at the Maltings at the age of five and at the Wigmore Hall at seven; but to those who, like me, had not heard him before, his performance of Mozart's nineteenth piano concerto must have been more than a little startling. Dexterity, we know, comes preternaturally early to a few, but whence came that maturity of interpretation? Leeds Youth Orchestra, who accompanied him, sounded like competent young people with a long way to go (if you can't give Mozart a high definition sheen, better leave him alone) but what Moulds offered was the real thing.

The evening brought the expected bag of delightfully unexpected things, but for me the pleasant surprises were Jonny's Accordionists, whose massed instruments produced music with an extraordinarily muscular structure, and the Chelmer Valley High School Recorder Ensemble who gave Geoffrey Russell-Smith's chanting 'Three Touches for Six Recorders' an almost faultless performance. The extra dimension gained through the addition of a bass recorder is not often enough realised. Russell-Smith's piece capitalises brilliantly on this quality.

The evening's big orchestras were in good form: King Edward VI College Orchestra did well with the first movement of Schubert's Unfinished, and Surrey County Youth Orchestra began and ended the concert with formidable precision and panache. And what had a mesmerizing temple dance from Manipuri got to do with it all? Once again, both nothing and, since its exponents were there because of their youth, dedication and talent, everything.

Travelling in time

It was an inspired idea to broadcast an edited version of the Putney debates, held by the General Council of Cromwell's New Model Army in 1647 and set down verbatim (November 19 Radio Three). As Christopher Hill, the eminent Marxist historian, explained in his brief introduction at the start of the programme, the debates were the outcome of a period of 'radical talk' among the rank and file. These debates, held in Putney church, are unique. For the first time in recorded English history ordinary people discussed serious issues on equal terms with their 'betters' for the 'first time' 'democracy' was seriously considered, and passionately advocated, as a system of government. The 'agitators' put forward arguments for 'one man (though not one woman)' one vote 'only, final accepted over 200 years later, though now unassailable.

The flaws of this programme as a place of broadcasting probably stemmed from its unusual nature. There were no previous errors to

Ideological bondage

Heather Neill at the Theatre Upstairs

The Worlds. By Edward Bond Royal Court Theatre Upstairs

Edward Bond's first play for young people contends that we are all involved in a class war, that violence is a symptom of the sickness of our society and that, therefore, society is in dire need of change, that is, the transformation of power to the workers. The Worlds is performed by the Activists of the Royal Court Young People's Theatre Scheme.

The managing director of a large, strike-bound company is kidnapped by terrorists who threaten to kill him unless the company succumbs to the workers' demands. The workers feel moral pressure to return to work. Meanwhile, the board unceremoniously oust the victim (JT) in his absence.

There is another strike, another kidnapping. A chauffeur, mistaken

for his employer, is taken to the derelict house in which JT was previously held. The workers do not give in. The chauffeur is shot—but not by the kidnappers. His murderer is JT who, a little dotty, lives alone in his former prison.

So who is really the terrorist? Can anyone in our society claim to be innocent when an act of violence is committed? Why should power be concentrated in the hands of a few? These are questions worth making the substance of a 'debate' play, but their treatment here is less than satisfactory. The people are types—not necessarily a point against the play—but why must the management characters be shown in such a ludicrous light? Directors pluck like children and one of the wives strips and pouts when they are presented with JT's insulting retirement present—one of those playground pictures into which one is invited to insert one's head to complete a caricature portrait.

These silly people can't be responsible for anything, can they? And why should workers feel pressure from public opinion because of the behaviour of the terrorists? Are the revolutionaries merely attempting to end the strike? The terrorists turn out to be frightened and vulnerable. The workers' dream of the brotherhood of man is not tested at all.

As always, Bond has an eye for a striking coup de theatre: the hooded chauffeur struggles with his bonds under the delighted leer of JT against a deafening uproar. But to make JT a murderer is too neat a 'proof' that violence is at the root of all relationships between the classes.

Bond's production is stark, the theatre uncompromisingly white, its windows black holes allowing the rumple of traffic to be seen as that this play is—essentially—about the real, tough world, not an escape from it.

26 Resources

Passing the acetate test

In the first of two articles on overhead projection, DAVID KILPATRICK discusses recent developments in the hardware

Despite competition from more compact forms of projection equipment and video systems, overhead projectors remain one of the basic visual aids at all levels of education. Most of the latest hardware developments have been aimed squarely at the industrial user and the travelling salesman, and their extra costs price them out of the classroom.

The most rapidly growing market is for portable overhead projectors. These work by a brilliant light source in the projection head, behind the mirror and lens unit, being aimed downwards at the original. A special reflective surface or mirror below returns the light to the lens. Although folding to a very compact size they are also costly—some three times the price of conventional units—and often incorporate features such as the digital timer of the Leisegang G14, valuable to time-limited commercial users but a luxury in educational terms. There is perhaps a place for this kind of model in a visual aid centre for use by staff obliged to travel.

The more interesting developments in general involve the use of tungsten-halogen light sources (low voltage) rather than the older tungsten mains bulbs, which have significant advantages in education.

The typical low voltage projector uses a 24v 250w bulb which is many times smaller than the 650w 240v standard and has a life expectancy better than 50 hours, which may be extended by an economy switch if a slightly dimmer image is acceptable. The low voltage bulbs produce a brighter, whiter and theoretically sharper image, but they are also more critical in alignment. If your overhead projector seems to give unpleasant "burned" edges of dirty brown or blue, this is not due to discolouration of the reflector or platen, but simply because the lamp itself is not accurately centred.

The cost of an inexpensive but rugged low voltage OHP from Elite, ITM or Bell and Howell will normally be around £120 to £180 depending on supplier and format—A4

projectors require a larger platen than those for 10 x 10 inch foils, and are only needed where originals are copied from A4 pages. Below this the popular Banda and basic Elite models have a low purchase price, but lamp life and general durability could hide high eventual costs. A recent introduction to this under-£120 range is the Paul Plus which has reappeared on the UK market.

In the £180-£250 bracket, optical systems tend to remain the same, but ease of use and reliability are improved by changes to focusing mechanisms, chassis design and projection angle and distance adjustments. The more expensive OHPs will cover a greater range from small to wall-size images, are quicker and more positive to focus, have better carrying handles and cable storage, and often better standard fittings for rolls and different register plus on foils. Their illumination may be better, with less tendency to misalign and in nearly all cases the fan cooling system is for quieter than with the cheaper models.

When buying an overhead projector for a particular classroom, it is very important to establish the projection distance and size, to avoid ending up with projectors perched on unsightly supports or throwing oversized images on the screen. Bell and Howell, for example, offer their basic 301KXE (middle price bracket) with a two-element 1/3.5 360mm lens—a fairly average, bright optic giving a small image. It is not interchangeable. Their Hille model (upper price bracket) has a 340mm f/5.4 triplet lens as standard—sharper, giving a bigger image, but only half as bright, the extra light output compensating for this. For small rooms alternative 317mm f/5.1 and 290mm f/3.5 lenses can be fitted. This kind of option is also available on the very popular Elite OHPs, made in Cardiff. The LV models have optional German triplet lenses of very good quality at around £20 extra, with

a choice of focal lengths. A good audio visual dealer will be able to tell you which lens you will find best for a given screen size and projection distance.

Although perhaps out of the educational price range, Gordon Audio Visual's Hledo is superbly designed with a two-chamber reflex illumination system making the base of the projector much lower, reducing glare, and vastly improving corner-to-corner illumination. Some models have a continuously variable dimmer for the lamp. Prices start at £250 for the 2004 NV with a single-element 17mm lens and economy switch, to £350 for the 2004-3D/NV-SK with a three-element 315mm lens and dimmer.

Even in recent budget models, many features are appearing which improve safety in the classroom. The British and Bell standards bodies; Rank Audio Visual's H135, includes micro-switches which automatically cut off the power if the Fresnel lens platen is removed. This projector has a particularly wide angle for big images, with its standard 275mm lens—again, a three-element alternative is available, for increased sharpness.

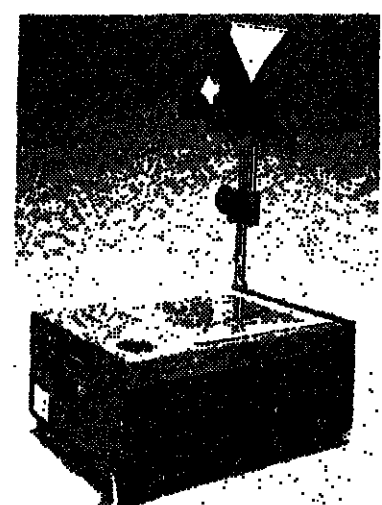
In terms of the OHP as a working tool, there are other things to consider apart from the chassis itself. In the classroom most OHPs are used with an acetate roll rather than the expensive permanent mounted foils, and some models have built-in scroll carriers (for example the three-low-voltage Elite Viewrite), where others need a separate purchase (Bell and Howell 301 KXE). The Bell and Howell models have as optional extras useful worktop extensions which hold your pens and sheets of paper or foils. All overhead projectors can be used with an anti-glare screen, which acts like a grid, passing only the light directed at the screen by the Fresnel lens, and preventing spill.

To compare the performance of OHPs in a showroom, you should ask the following questions:

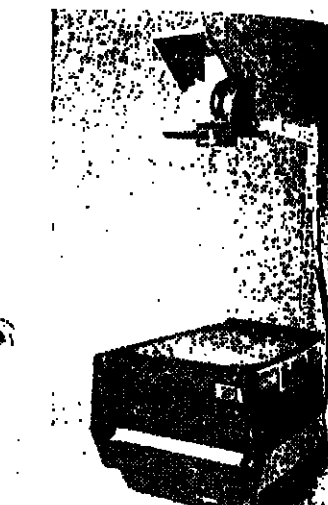
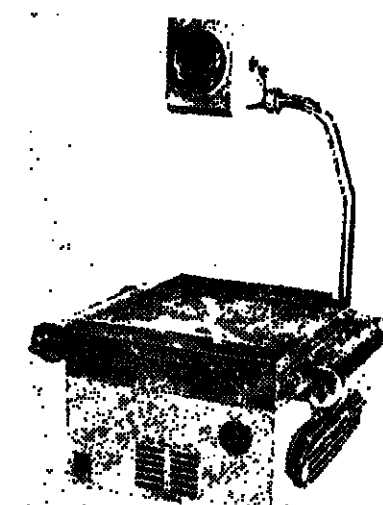
- What are the maximum and minimum projection distances and their respective image sizes?
- What is the light output in lumens?
- What kind of lens—type, focal length, and aperture—is fitted?
- Which attachments are standard and which are optional?
- Is there a lamp economy switch?
- Is there an automatic adjustment (auto-focus) to cut colour fringing?

It is also worth running the projector for several minutes to listen to the cooling fan noise, finally placing your hand on the platen to see how warm it is.

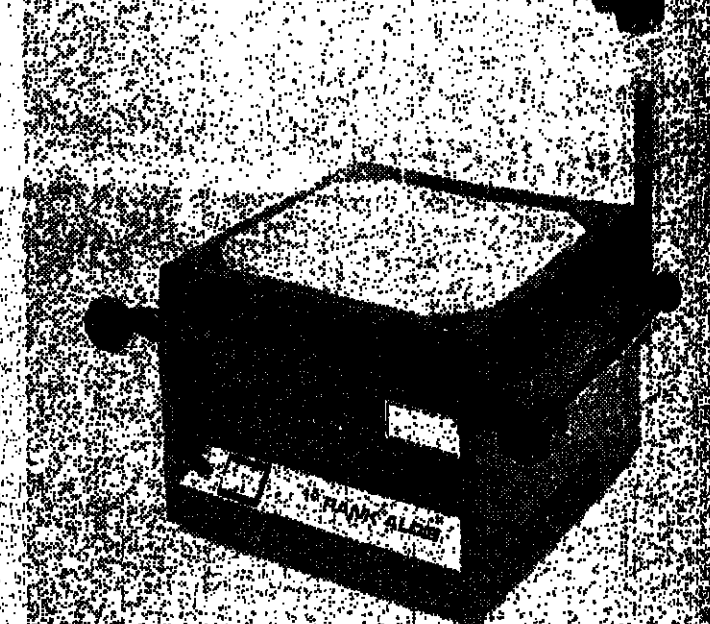
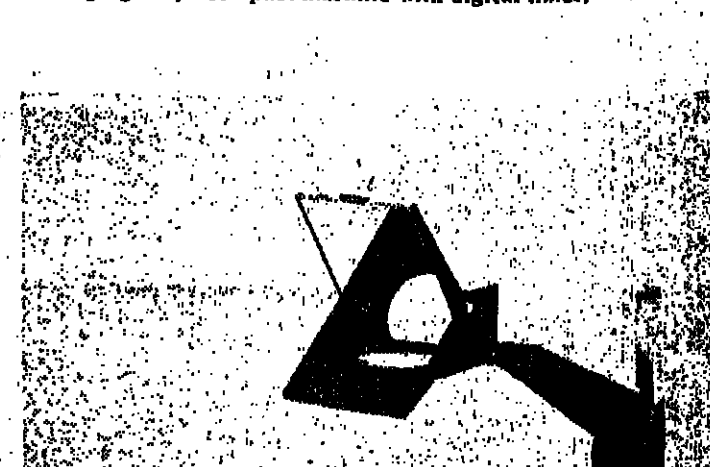
You should aim for a good compromise between fan noise and cooling efficiency. Other points to check include whether or not the scroll can be rolled back smoothly as well as east-west, whether the cable can be stored, safety features, 35mm projector attachments, and bulb voltage and availability.



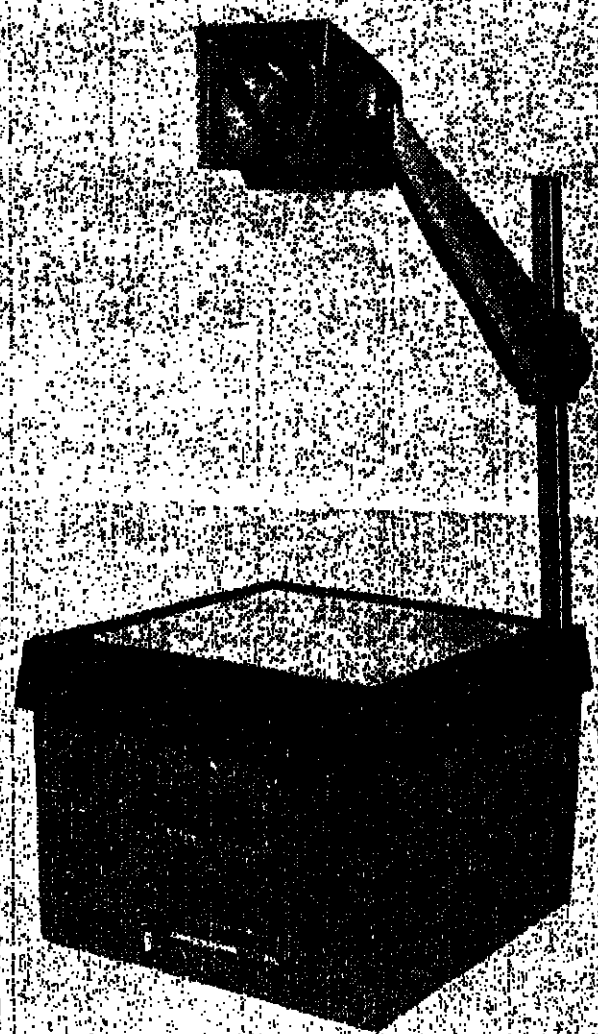
Left to right: Gordon Audio Visual's Hledo, the inexpensive Elite Viewrite, 3M's 213 model.



Leisegang G14, a compact machine with digital timer.



Rank Audio Visual's H135, with automatic power cut-off.



Bell and Howell's 310 KXE, a standard choice for many schools.

27 Resources

Science

Commissioned by Chelsea College Centre for Science Education

Hothouse conditions

by John Barker

Growth Chamber
Base Unit, YUD-230-M £37.50
Glazed frame unit, YUD-250-510V £33
Cover, YUD-250-520P £16.50
Lighting unit, YUD-250-520S £52.40
Griffin and George Ltd, 285 Ealing Road, Alpertown, Wembley, Middlesex HA0 1JJ.

Many schools find it difficult to provide a suitable environment in which seeds can be germinated and plants grown rapidly. This equipment is designed to provide that facility.

The growth chamber, complete as shown, comes in four packages. The first contains the base unit, the second the components of the glazed frame unit, the third the lighting unit and the fourth the alternative cover, to be used in place of the lighting unit.

There is a short booklet of notes on the growth chamber. It is essential to read them all the way through before assembling the chamber. The glazed frame unit is simple to construct. Plastic corner pieces are inserted into aluminium alloy sections and the plastic glazing panels are slid in to complete the assembly of each side.

First the two end sections are put together and then the side panels. The construction of the end pieces was initially unsuccessful as the importance of fitting the lower section of aluminium the correct way round is only mentioned later in the notes. Although great care was taken, two of the plastic corner pieces were badly damaged in re-arranging them to reassemble the end section. Fortunately two extra corner sections are included in the kit.

This method of construction is relatively stable—some joints, as noted above, were very difficult to undo, while others were too loose and tended to pull apart. The transparent panels are protected by plastic film and are easy to fit into the frame. Once completed, the frame fitted easily and snugly into the base. The rest of the assembly

simply involves fitting an appropriately fused plug. Two indicator lights on the base show whether the current is on and the heater operating. A control knob regulates the thermostat over a wide range of 10°C to 30°C. The completed glazed frame is approximately 690mm x 370mm x 300mm, length x width x height.

The plastic cover has an aluminium frame and is a good fit on to the glazed frame unit. It can also be fitted directly onto the base unit, thus providing a small enclosed space which can be used as an incubator, or as a shallow water bath. The lighting unit is of solid construction and simply fits over the frame unit. The sample received for review tended to wobble, and would not be suitable if the chamber was being used as a vivarium. The lighting unit has two 20W white fluorescent tubes controlled by a switch. It can be used quite safely, for example, clamped horizontally over potted plants. It could also be used to display overhead projector transparencies or X-ray plates. For general use with the growth chamber a time switch is almost essential.

The brief booklet provides adequate details. The major omission is a photograph of the complete unit. During assembly the need for this arose, and the main catalogue had to be consulted.

Although the base unit is sold, in the Griffin catalogue, to hold two seed trays measuring 360mm x 220mm at least one well-known make of tray of this size does not fit. A suitable tray is marketed by Seaford Plastics Ltd, 60 Oakhurst Road, Southend-on-Sea. The three units, excluding the lighting unit, appear to be essentially identical to those sold by horticultural hardware suppliers as propagators. The current price from these suppliers is around £60 including VAT; significantly cheaper than the model discussed above.

The growth chamber would be particularly valuable for a school which lacks a greenhouse and where laboratory facilities for plant cultivation are required. This model possesses significant advantages over earlier versions of the larger heated propagator units, being less bulky, easier to use and much more versatile.

Table 1.		Seedlings		
Petri dish	Normal	Albino	Unidentified	
A	25	3	1	
B	52	18	2	
C	25	5	0	
Totals	142	53	7	

Table 2.		Seedlings			
Petri dish	Normal	Pale Green	Yellow	Green	Unidentified
D	13	28	23	3	
E	13	29	29	0	
F	13	40	13	3	
Totals	40	117	55	7	

Divided cells and hydra hunters

Cell division
16mm sound and colour, 8 minutes.
Produced by Gakken Films, Japan.
For hire from: National Educational Media Library, Paxton Place, Gipsy Road, London, SE27, £5.55.

These films illustrate two very different types of biological experience. The first shows the process of mitotic cell division; first in the staminal hairs of a flower and second in lung cells from foetal mouse tissue grown in culture. In both the plant and animal cells the process of cell division, shot in time-lapse phase contrast, is seen several times giving viewers the chance to follow the process closely. In the plant cell the movement of chromosomes is clearly

visible as is the production of the new cell walls. It is a pity that the photograph uses only phase contrast and not more advanced techniques which might have shown up details even more clearly. The commentary underlines the essential similarity of the processes in the plant and in the animal cell.

The second film creates the classic experiment carried out by Otto Loewi in 1921. He investigated the control of heartbeat using amphibians. In the film a still-beating heart is removed from an anaesthetized frog and set up in an apparatus which enables the heart to reproduce Ringer's solution. The Vagus nerve supplying the heart is then electrically stimulated and the heart ceases beating. Some of the Ringer's solution from the apparatus is then transferred to the solution bathing a second similar heart which also stops beating. This experiment revealed that the vagus nerve released an inhibitory chemical, later identified as acetylcholine. Although the filmed experiment is not exactly

as Loewi described, it is an elegant demonstration of an important breakthrough in our knowledge of control systems. The photography is clear and the commentary makes the important point that human hearts are controlled by the same process. A valuable film for sixth form biology courses.

Both these films would benefit from teaching notes, but they are worth considering for inclusion in film libraries.

The Hydra
16mm colour, 10 minutes.
For hire from: Gateway Educational Media, Waverley Road, Yate, Bristol, BS17 5RE, £5.50.

The film opens with shots of hydra hunters at a pond. Weed is collected and transferred to a tank where the animals emerge. Time lapse photography shows how the animal searches its environment for food. This sequence shows clearly

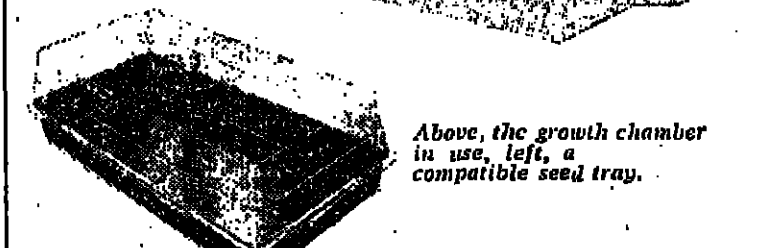
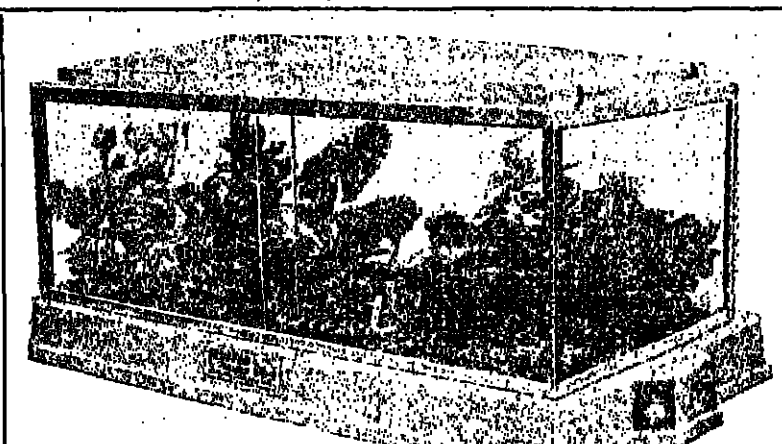
the large volume of water that the extended tentacles of the hydra can search. The movement of the animal on the sides of the tank, the distinctive features of the two common species and close-ups of the external structure of the tentacles and the mouth region are all shown.

The hydra catches its prey by stinging them with cells situated along the tentacles. The speed at which this occurs is vividly shown. Time lapse photography shows a hydra digesting several water fleas and then egesting the remains.

The film depicts asexual reproduction, budding, by which means, under favourable conditions, the population of hydra can rapidly increase. In the autumn a phase of sexual activity takes place with the development of male and female gonads. After the egg is fertilized the adults die and the eggs lie dormant until the spring, when budding occurs.

This film, made from original material shot by the Institute of Animal Genetics, University of Edinburgh, is the finest film on hydra I have seen for many years.

John Barker



Above, the growth chamber in use, left, a compatible seed tray.

'albino' plants are in fact pale green, a point worth noting in the instruction sheets.

The tobacco seed was sown at the same time and kept under the same conditions. It took, as expected, longer to germinate, starting after 16 days and observations were made in the period 18 to 26 days. The three phenotypes, identified with the first leaves, were normal green, pale green and yellow.

Table 2 gives the results. The results are reasonably close to the anticipated ratio of 1:2:1. The major sources of error in collecting the data are likely to be confusion between pale yellow heterozygotes and the yellow chlorotic form. A further error would be wrongly identifying the 'normal' type, by not giving the seedling long enough to develop the colour in its leaves.

For reasons unknown, both sets of seeds took rather longer to germinate than the instructions suggested. This is a point worth noting when programming the material into a teaching course.

This particular investigation, with both lettuce and tobacco, could also be used to investigate the effect of the genetic constitution and its interaction with the environment. This can be done by germinating some seeds in the light and others in the dark. After germination the colours of the seedlings are compared and the effect of leaving the dark germinated batch for some days in the light. This provides a valuable discussion point on the effect of nature and nurture.

For teachers who want to give their students experience in making genetic investigations, but who lack facilities to follow-through breeding investigations, this material is ideal. As an introduction to genetics the tobacco and lettuce material, because of the relative speed at which results can be obtained and the single equipment needed will probably be the more used. It would be a good idea to market these two as a simplified version of the lesson. The price varies somewhat with the supplier, but is between £5 and £6.

Introduction to Genetics (Set PGL 20) is available from Practical Plant Genetics, 18 Harsfield Road, Rustington, West Sussex BN16 2QE. It is distributed by T. Gerrard and Co, Gerrard House, Worthing Road, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 1AS, and by Philip Harris Biological Ltd, Oldmixon, Weston-super-Mare, Avon BS24 9BJ.

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28 Resources

New wave in primary mathematics

by Andrew Rothery

Nuffield Maths 5-11
General editor: Eric A. Albany
Nuffield Maths 1 Teachers' Handbook, £4.
Nuffield Maths 1 Worksheets, £20.50. Packs A-F give 12 copies of each of 164 expendable worksheets, packs A-C are also available as spiritmasters.
Nuffield Maths 1 Teachers' Handbook, £4.50. Teacher's notes, £3.20. Heinemann.

Though allegedly based on the Nuffield Mathematics Teaching Project of the 1960s, the present scheme is in many ways different. First, the teachers' handbook contains a lot less of the complex mathematical and psychological jargon which made the original guides pretty heavy going. It also contains detailed descriptions of what to do, what to make, almost what to say in the lessons.

Unlike the original project, worksheets and books are on sale. Their mathematical content is more down-to-earth, as far as can be judged from this first year of the course. The "modern maths" content is much less extreme: just several sets and the occasional arrows; there is much emphasis on number work and measuring activities. It seems likely that the mathematical content of Nuffield Maths 5-11 will be very similar to the other members of the present "new wave" of primary school courses.

The launch of Nuffield Maths came shortly after that of the School Mathematics Project (SNP 7-13), a work card based course which contains a mixture of modern and traditional mathematics and places greater emphasis on number and arithmetic. A new edition of the Fletcher primary mathematics books is being published with more straightforward-looking pages, animal characters and simpler language with less jargon. Even the very traditional Beta books are celebrating with a new edition. No doubt there

will be more, and the primary school teacher is now confronted by a choice from several publishers, all stressing the importance of arithmetic.

The backbone of Nuffield Maths 1 is the superbly produced teachers' handbook. There are pictures of apparatus and models to make, facsimiles of worksheets and descriptions of how to work with them. There are more than enough ideas here to fill a year's work for infants; indeed, many users will need to make some cuts or let the content continue into the second year infants.

Experienced infant teachers will be familiar with a good many of the activities and will be mildly irritated by the occasional touch of unsightly advice ("of course the children should always wear some sort of protective clothing to keep themselves dry"). Younger teachers and students will find this book very helpful, though some would say that following such detailed suggestions might stunt the growth of their own ideas.

The course is broken up into units of work for number, length and area. This is a device commonly found in teachers' guides, produced within L.E.S. as a means of organizing syllabuses and providing checklists to monitor pupils' progress. Schools can follow the units in any order they think suitable, though a suggested sequence is given. This gives potential for flexibility.

The expendable worksheets are printed as four-page leaflets with shrink-down versions contained in the handbook. The basic scheme seems to be that the handbook describes introductory activities and simple worksheets for the teacher to make, and the topic is finished by children completing the sheets. The handbook contains a statement warning: "Teachers should not be introduced until children have

had plenty of practical experience and opportunity for discussion." This feels a bit like an excuse for some of the sheets being rather hard for five-year-olds. However, there is plenty of variety in the level of the worksheets. Though some children would not complete every one, most are clear and straightforward, many easy. There will be teachers who would have preferred at least for several topics, to have even the very simplest worksheets ready printed, and then have teacher-organized activities to extend the basic work.

The Bronco books are a set of eight or 16 page books accompanying the course. One of the aims of Nuffield Maths 1 is to deal with language problems in mathematics; the handbook does this to some extent but the Bronco books do it more explicitly. They are beautifully produced along the lines of reading books but with mathematical vocabulary.

Inside the cover of each book is a list of mathematical and vocabulary content as well as a lot of suggestions for follow-up activities. Broncos are listed in the teachers' handbook alongside other references and appear to be ancillary in role, although they could be used with some of the worksheets. They offer unusual and successful ideas, attractive and appealing, catering for even the very youngest of children.

The flexibility of Nuffield Maths arises from two main factors: first, the suggestions in the handbook may be selected from or even added to; second, the leaflet worksheets can be presented in various sequences. This flexibility together with the practical detail in the handbook (though not particularly the worksheets) are perhaps the main factors which would persuade an infant teacher to choose this course rather than one of its rivals. The second year infants material for "Nuffield Maths 5-11" will be reviewed soon.

Functional flexibility

by Dorothy Carter

Primary Mathematics Stage 5
Textbook, £1.80. Workbook, 20p.
Worksheets, £4.75. Teacher's materials, £4.50. Teacher's notes, £3.20. Heinemann.

This is the final stage of the primary series devised by the Scottish Primary Mathematics Group, and it covers the age range 11-12. Like stages 3 and 4, stage 5 contains mainly non-expendable materials: a pupil's textbook and workbook, and a slim expendable teacher's materials pack with apparatus for a variety of activities and games. The pack gives an immediate fund of materials for reinforcement and practice.

Although the authors have explained clearly the series intentions to provide development through activity, non-specialists will need some guidance to gain a sound overview and to see how the various components slot together. Once this has been achieved, the use and presentation of the materials is very fairly simple and clear.

The pupils' textbook is a well-organized, clearly presented book, for example, it helpfully cross-references to the workbook and worksheets. In some cases the worksheets are essential to the development of an aspect of the work, and in others they provide enrichment or further practice.

The authors state that an essential feature of the work is the activity and experience associated with the acquisition of a concept or the understanding of a process. I should like to see this statement go a stage further and describe some applications of these concepts and processes.

The three-title theme of the previous stages is continued in the pupils' book: Number, Measure and Shape, with appropriate illustrations. The pages are colour-coded for easy reference. Number, which includes descriptive, sequential and development, and so must be followed through in order of presentation; Measure and Shape are presented in independent units which may be re-ordered to suit individual or group needs. The necessity for children to have experience in all three components is stressed. The work is divided into four sections and represents about a year's classroom activity.

Emphasis has been placed on development through activity, and a pattern of estimate, then measure, and compare, must be followed. Children are expected to cope with the reading required for the presentation of maths in written form and in some sections, especially Number, the individual reading skills of the slower learners will

be severely taxed. The level of difficulty of the number work is also biased towards the average and above-average pupil.

The teacher's notes contain clear linked outlines of the concepts and processes covered in stages 4 and 5 as well as those in stage 5, so the view of the whole series. A method of assessment and recording is included on the inside covers of the expendable workbook.

Substantial sections of parts 1 and 4 in stage 5 are given in revision; the former presumably to compensate for summer holidays and the latter to consolidate the year's work. Work extends to three decimal places with the introduction of the millimetre, gram and millilitre. The fraction-decimal-percentage link is well defined in work on approximation at radio.

The coverage of Measure and Shape is imaginative and contains some open-ended questions, many of the examples on Number are pedestrian, and presented in a very familiar style. Exploration of number facts and patterns is underplayed, as is the essential use of dynamic number games. Percentages have been tackled well in a more attractive way. The teacher needs to use the teacher's notes fully because they contain far more illuminating ideas than either the textbook or worksheets.

The section on decimal multiplication is confusing for both teacher and pupil, and the reference to "placing the decimal point" is very questionable. But like to see this statement go a stage further and describe some applications of these concepts and processes.

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ITV

Roots towards militancy?

Amrit Wilson reviews 'Babylon'

Babylon, ITV's new six-part Sunday lunchtime series about young blacks, is rather like a serial, not because it has a storyline but because it has an angle on racism which emerges only gradually over several programmes.

The white producers (who hope to make "a contribution to better race relations") have filmed mainly blacks and used a black presenter, but the choice of speakers, the selection of scenes, and most important, the categorization of material, remains very much their own. This categorization is in the end the determining feature of the series because by neatly defining and objectifying everything (the family, education, employment, reggae and soul) the programmes also take away all the struggle and immediacy.

But Babylon cannot be dismissed as yet another racist or well liberal effort to portray the lives of black people. It does have a few moments of intensity, though the way it treats them suggests that the rest of the series is embarrassed by them. The programme on education starts with two short plays by black schoolchildren. The second play, about a reading lesson in a girls' school, gives us some brief insights into the nature of racism in schools.

It gives clues about the process which pushes black children towards failure, about the contempt in which black culture is held, about the impossibility of communication with racist teachers and about the roots of militancy in personal and day-to-day experience.

Having presented us with this powerful sketch, the programme passes on without comment, coyly refusing to look deeper into the contradictions revealed by it. Instead we are shown how black history is taught at Hackney Downs (a shrewd school as far as multicultural education is concerned). The fact that it is not taught seriously, or at all, in most other London schools, despite the LEA policy of multiculturalism, is



Lincoln Browne, presenter of 'Babylon'.

acknowledged, but the conclusion is merely that black parents should put more pressure on schools through the usual channels. The unreality of this suggestion, the virtual impossibility of parent-teacher contact, is shown up by the information given later in the same series—a black mother tells her son's headmaster refused to see her for several weeks when the boy was being thrown out of school.

One is given the impression that it is the parents who are to blame for most things. It is their "confusion", we learn in the programme on the problems of young black people. There are, we are told, a disproportionate number of breakdowns in the black family" but this appears to be because the black family is its own worst enemy.

It is breaking up not because, as one might think, of the systematic family and the community, nor again because racist social workers are only too eager to take black children away from their parents. It is indicated that it is the

monstrous ego of this West Indian mother or the inflexibility of that African father which causes all the trouble. The members of a black women's group are briefly interviewed but they are not given the opportunity to speak about the campaigns they have initiated which are based round their children's experiences of racism.

Is it indeed just a question of racism? The programme asks from time to time, and answers with such effectively racist banalities as: "referring to employers who discriminate—(white people) may be worried about the way (black) people dress or speak, or worried about the effect on the public."

As it proceeds to objectify and categorize the series tells us gently but firmly that there are good blacks and bad blacks. In a programme on reggae and soul we learn, for example, that soul fans are happy, confident people who are seeking and finding acceptance in what is called reggae fans, we are told through a ridiculous selection of quotes, are hostile separatists who want repatriation to Africa.

The view of racism that emerges is that while it definitely exists, the sensible way to fight it is by putting pressure on the establishment—that racism is a sort of mistake, though rather a nasty one, which will be remedied if only people strive hard enough. The deliberate racism of the state, exemplified by the immigration laws, the continued use of the Special Patrol Group in the areas where black people live, the racist policies of certain education authorities (the racism used to keep black people as an underclass)—these were issues not mentioned at all in the programmes I was able to see (the first four), nor was the black resistance to racism. When I asked director Howard Ross why this was, he said that "politics" had been dealt with on their own at the end of the series—they are regarded apparently as a separate compartment of black people's lives with no bearing on the rest.

And while statistics might be better assimilated on the page, it would take a rare writer to match the telling insights these programmes offer into the conditions of social workers and their clients and the subtleties of their interaction. Dick Pope's photography uses no lights, a technique which maximizes demands on the cameraman's skill while minimizing disruption to the subject.

After three programmes about provision for young blacks, the old and the mentally handicapped, the series last week grasped the political nettle of poverty with eloquent evidence of the inadequacy of social security scales. And confirmation from David

The nettle of poverty

by Christopher Griffin-Beale

The Do Gooders.
ITV, Fridays 2300 or 2310 in London (regional times vary).

It might seem that the social services do not lack public exposure on television, but such coverage is isolated and responds to scandals, human tragedies or immediate political issues.

So even if London Weekend series *The Do Gooders* weren't so sensitively and responsibly handled, such an extensive "inquiry into the social services" would still merit praise simply for existing on television, even if—with the sort of complacency that has become a ritual for educational series, the transmission slots around the network are far from ideal.

Otherwise, London Weekend is to be commended for giving producers David Tereshchuk such ample scope in seven 45-minute programmes.

The only serious criticism is that the series' title, besides betraying the approach of the programmes, embodies the sort of image that makes most social workers wince.

Tereshchuk's commentaries are perhaps over-filled with statistics for even a professional critic, not book in hand, to digest. But though precise figures may be forgotten, they give a valuable context for the powerful arguments continued in the filmed example.

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Donnison, Supplementary Benefits Commission chairman, that social security scrounging was far less serious a problem than other kinds of dishonesty, tax evasion or embezzlement of fares—and certainly less widespread than unemployment by those unaware of their entitlement.

The first programme, "Care by Order" touched on one of the most emotive issues, and perhaps the most relevant for many *Times Educational Supplement* readers: the increasing powers bestowed on social workers to deal with child-battering, or "non-accidental injury".

Perhaps wisely, the programme lowered the emotional temperature by examining a less extreme case where the two preschool children were not cruelly treated, yet there were fears that the parents' inability to cope might expose them to real danger.

This kind of case illustrates well the real dilemmas facing social workers: aware of the risks to the children, and the burden of their own responsibility if they under-react, while open to criticism if they over-react. In this case readily forthcoming from the father—and themselves aware of the imperfections of the available alternatives, the institutional quality of children's homes.

One of the series' strengths is its balance between the traditional provision most clients receive and the few small-scale, yet heartening experiments which emphasize the role that the clients themselves and the community can play alongside professional workers. In the first programme a young couple, articulate about the difficulties they experienced with their first baby, were full of praise for the family "care" their social worker had assigned them.

The series deals finally with the professional condition of social workers after their disastrous strike. At a time when the social services are under financial threat, the programmes yield eloquent arguments for the resources devoted to them.

Selborne's naturalist

by John Barker

Gilbert White and Selborne
By John Clegg
20 colour slides, with notes, £5 plus VAT.
Focal Point Filmstrips, 251 Copnor Road, Portsmouth, Hants. PO1 2BR.

Gilbert White, whose book *The Natural History of Selborne* was first published in 1789, is perhaps the most famous of eighteenth century naturalists. The slides in this set provide a background to the book. They illustrate the village today, which, on the evidence of an engraving from an early edition of the book, has altered very little. Many of the trees around Selborne, frequented by the author are still wild. Although no authentic portrait of him survives two sketches made by one of his contemporaries are included.

Today White's house is a museum, with a modern field-study centre in its grounds. The booklet provides a useful background of information to the slides—with, from time to time, appropriate questions. The material would be useful as an introduction prior to Selborne, or to the book itself.

Apparatus of health

A new health education brochure from Griffith and George, giving details of laboratory apparatus, suitable for use in health studies has been published.

The brochure is expected to be of interest to teachers in schools and colleges, particularly those working in home economics departments. Copies of the brochure (P8030) are available from Griffith and George Ltd, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

Successful sale of goods?

by Roger Stephens

Find out about Advertising Teaching pack with notes, £5.75 including postage.
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Forbes Publications Ltd, Hartree House, Queensway, London W2 4SH.

"The successful sale of goods is critical to the economic recovery of this country and a return to full employment." Mr Tim Radbone, MP, said at the recent launch of this teaching pack. A simplistic rationale for the complex operations

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TALKBACK

Fitting the pieces together

Rob Walker

The back seat of Mr Hurn's car is a mobile office: files, correspondence, a copy of the HMI's report Curriculum 11-16, computer print-outs giving test scores on Primary School children in the county, a tape recorder and cassette tapes (so he can dictate and record while he drives).

As the General Adviser to nearly sixty schools in a rural area, he spends a good part of each day in the car, perhaps more than most, because he sees being in schools, and being seen in schools, as the most important part of his job, and that means time spent travelling.

One week we added up the hours. Seven hours were spent in the Teachers' Centre, eighteen in schools

(14 visits) and eight hours travelling. In some ways the week was typical because the hours were low, but spot checks on other weeks showed that the number of visits to schools and the proportions of travel time to school time to office time were surprisingly constant. The car has to become an office, because he cannot avoid spending time in it. Mr Hurn drives up to the school, a Primary School well thought of by parents and apparently without major educational problems. He gets out of the car, taking his coat off as he does so. "If you go into school with your coat on, it emphasises that you are an outsider. Finding a place to hang your coat creates a distance and underlines the fact that you are visiting. I like to get straight into the school and for people to feel I belong there."

As we go in, he says hello to the secretary, calling her by her first name and asking how her son is getting on at university (he started this term). It is lunch time. The head isn't in his office but is somewhere around the school.

Mr Hurn continues chatting to the secretary, but listens also to the noise level (and as he puts it, the "kind of noise") coming from the hallways. Later he says to me:

"I felt there was something wrong. I couldn't put my finger on it, it was several small things added up—the way the children ran through the entrance when we came in (I hadn't noticed them), the kind of noise level, the fact that the head wasn't in his office at lunch time, the fact that the secretary seemed on edge. I thought to myself, there's something not quite right. I need to keep my eye on this..."

"Isn't it dangerous", I asked, "making judgements about schools

on such slender evidence?" "The important thing is not to be taken in by these impressions, but not to forget them," Mr Hurn says. "An adviser learns to disbelieve everything he is told, or observes, until the last possible moment—to disbelieve it, but remember it. Store it away until you can cross-check it with something else."

"Never rush to judgments—I'm less sure now than ever I was as a teacher, or even as a head, that I know the best way of doing things. You have to learn to fit the pieces of the story together, patiently, and perhaps sometimes a little deviously—for instance you often act as though you don't know what someone is telling you, even though you have heard the same story several times."

It is justifiable because our job is to know the schools, and to act to forestall problems. When we are successful there is no sign we have done anything; our job is to be invisible, to seem to be part of the school. Even when we are taunted by teachers—"You know, 'failed' and such like..."

For the past two years, and with the help of a grant from the SSRC, I have been making a close study of the ways in which a number of advisers work. Typically, advisers claim to "know" their schools and to "know" what is going on in classrooms. I have been trying to find out more about that knowledge.

What kinds of information seem significant? How is it collected, processed and recorded? What problems arise in establishing the reliability and validity of the information? But above all I have asked myself the question, "What do advisers do?", not

because of a desire to press for judgment, but out of curiosity and the feeling that there is a need for description.

The most informative technique has been to spend days or half-days with advisers visiting schools, recorded either descriptively or occasionally on video-tape or film. These records have usually been followed by interviews that have focused on particular issues or points of interpretation.

Having developed quite a close understanding of the work of a few selected advisers I wonder about the generalisability of the picture that emerges. The job of adviser, or inspector, varies from person to person and I.e.a. and not always in ways accounted for by different occupational labels.

I am looking for advisers who would be interested in writing accounts of aspects of their work, and perhaps letting me observe them at work, or talking to me about the ways in which they observe schools and classrooms.

In this way I hope to fill out the picture I have so far. In exchange I can offer to supply a portrayal of the adviser-at-work, and will promise anonymity and the right to control the use I make of the information.

If you are, have been, or are shortly to become an adviser and would be interested in helping me, I'd be glad to hear from you. If you are a teacher, pupil, head teacher, laboratory technician or parent, and you have had contacts with advisers, or thoughts about the way they work, I'd be glad to hear from you too.

Rob Walker works at the Centre for Applied Research in Education, University of East Anglia.

A spot of bother

Elizabeth Wells

Mr Sear always hovers round the desk at the end of the lesson for a few moments' private conversation. By this stage of the term, everyone else is demanding to be called by their first names, speaking up confidently, volunteering answers, laughing at themselves and at each other, and delighting in teasing the teacher out.

Mr Sear remains silent throughout the two hours, hovering at the desk at the end of the lesson for a few moments' private conversation. By this stage of the term, everyone else is demanding to be called by their first names, speaking up confidently, volunteering answers, laughing at themselves and at each other, and delighting in teasing the teacher out.

Being rather embarrassed by his humility and industry, I try to stall his confessions of inadequacy by getting in first with faintly joking questions, suppressing the knowledge that he's a lonely old man who wants to tell me something and that I can make no satisfactory response.

He told me after the first that he hadn't had any schooling, but now that he was retired he felt it was time to start bettering himself. The next week he stayed behind to mention that he attended an RSA class last year, and the lady thought he'd done very well, considering. The third week I heard how he'd spent his entire working life as a carpenter for Lloyd's.

The fourth week, I fended off what I feared might be revelations of awful paroxysms with "Well, Mr Sear, how did you find all that?" All right, was it? He felt it was not too bad, except for a bit of trouble with his punctuation.

This formula seems to make for a more comfortable exit from the room than leaving the social niceties to Mr Sear, so I have continued with such leads as "How are you finding the literature?" "Is it any good?" He likes the "Madness of Crow" but is a bit of a bother with "Romeo and Juliet" can't really understand what they are saying.

He is very small and neat in his hairy sports jacket, with his hair combed over his arm and his books in a plastic carrier. He is also dreadfully slow of speech and movement. We are up on the second floor and the descent to ground level is protracted. Last week I rather meekly excused myself and hurried down alone, pleading an appointment for half-past one.

This week he lingered to explain that his homework wasn't as good as everyone else's because he never had the opportunities. It was a relief to be able to tell him that. "Yes, you've got to be careful that most of the time sensible than many. It was, indeed, not bad, he said—considering."

This time, as we started our journey together from the classroom, he squeaked polished corridors, and I saw any reason to doubt the inference that a systematic study of the past has all but disappeared from the primary schools, in England at least.

Where I part company is from the laying of blame on "lack of planning" or the absence of schemes of work and of teachers with responsibility for their implementation. These are deficiencies, but they have arisen far less from wilful neglect within schools than because it is many years since more than a lone voice in the inspectors' or advisory services among teacher educators or specialist researchers has pressed the case for what the final two sentences describe as "A framework" to bring about some "ordering of events" and the "possibilities of comparisons" with the "present day".

There are already signs that those phrases have been taken as a rallying call for a return to basics, for distilling of unexciting textbooks and doing the fifteenth century with the nine year-olds. If this continues, shall we accept it as a natural reaction to the inference in the survey that superficial, rote, randomness and copying are to be blamed on to poorly organized discovery work, its matched to pupils' abilities, or will we recognize also

Elizabeth Wells teaches at the North West Hastings Adult Education Centre, Muswell Hill.

An icy morning

Chris Evans

Snow had fallen the night before. The children came into school bubbling with excitement.

"Right, get your English books out, we're going to have a spelling test." The children open their books and look at the teacher expectantly. "Okay, first word 'pneumonia'." The children begin to write. Outside the classroom two workmen begin scratching dry putty from a large damaged window. "New word 'chemist', John, look at your book, not the window."

The workmen come into the classroom and with one mighty thud knock the middle of the pane out. Noise bubbles in the classroom. "Alright alright, anyone would think you'd never seen a pane of glass broken before, next word 'knowledge', John, look at your book, not the window."

The workmen pull away splinters which crackle and split as the remnants of the pane are removed. Children look on in fascination as experienced hands deal with deadly points. The cold from the open space chills the children who audibly shiver. "Don't be silly, come on now, next word 'icicle', hey you four, turn round will you, 'icicle'."

The glass is cleared and a new pane fitted in and secured. The workmen leave. The test finishes. "Now, in the same book, we've got you to write about the title 'I'm going to put on the blackboard'." The teacher writes, the children copy. "If I were a king."

Next door in another class a child had written:

"Last night it started pelting down with snow. Gradually everything was like a white blanket. There were heavy trees like as the cars drove through the soft glistening snow, it looked like a fairy tale at the moon shone down. I thought it was a shame it wasn't Christmas. In the morning I looked out of the window and there was snow piled on the roof. The door was frozen. All the way to school I splattered my sister with snow."

Chris Evans is head of Brookside Primary School, Hayes.



Help from outside: members of the Laidus Dance Group perform in a Lancashire school.

Getting dance started

Ruth Goldberg

Finding a place for anything new in the secondary curriculum is increasingly difficult. Advocates of the value of modern dance suffer from the same problem.

The physical education timetable is so rarely appropriate, although schools where drama and music have close links have greater flexibility. This is a brief account of how modern dance is introduced in a school.

A full day is set aside for all 12-year-old students (second year). The class tutors, many of whom have no experience of dance, are involved in planning, teaching, and follow-up work associated with the day.

different dance forms, and to root the activities in the student's personal experience of dance.

A timetable for the day is established which rotates each group, as a tutor group with tutor, through the following:

(1) A film. Many good films are available. A good catalogue is the Scottish Central Film Library Catalogue. We used the well-known "Bag de Deux" by Norman McLaren (Harris Films) and the "Billingham International Folk Lore Festival"—a study of national folk dance styles.

(2) A discussion led by one of the three teachers with experience and training in dance, assisted by the class teacher. This is planned and structured beforehand and explores attitudes and experience of dance in the student group.

(3) A practical session—for this we enlist the skilled support of outside experts and use them in consultation with the class tutors, whose subsequent roles vary between teaching partner, support, observer, class member and participant. Each group then has a session of practical work, each teacher offering a different style, form and content.

(4) A short piece of individual written work based on (1) to (3) above, incorporated into an attractively produced programme for the day which is given to every one participating.

(5) Finally and most important, we have always been fortunate in obtaining support from professional dance groups. We have supported them in an evening production in the area, and they in return have given an afternoon lecture/demonstration and performance at the end of our "Day of Dance".

An outstanding success one year was the Extemporaneous Dance Group. To use such groups you need to plan well in advance. Make direct contact or obtain advice from your local arts association.

These days have proved a great success with teachers as well as students. Misconceptions are dispelled, the ground laid for a variety of follow-up work. Both teachers and students have developed from the initial stimulus, which has an influence far out of proportion to the curriculum time set aside.

Ruth Goldberg teaches dance at Staminbury Campus, Milton Keynes.

EXTRA
HISTORY

World picture

Book reviews by Jessica Saraga



The case of the mummy's foot. London school children absorbed with their question sheets in the British Museum: but on page 33 Richard Brown and Christopher Daniels question the value of history projects.

Superficial work... little historical content... lack of planning...

John Robottom has been looking at the history section of the HMI Survey of Primary Education in England

LAYING THE BLAME

In four out of five, of all the failure of the management corps of school history to address itself to the questions of which events and what comparisons. For the sake of history which gave us "discovery" and "activity" has been followed by the "hard" psychology of myriad inquiries into children's historical thinking, many of them far too agnostic about the content of the history curriculum to which the results could be applied. It is not, of course, the quality of these researches themselves which is at issue, but their displacement effect; they absorb funds, time, attention and dominate journals or history courses to the detriment of the task of helping a non-specialist teacher force determine what encounters with the past it should provide.

Annex B, which sets out the schedules followed by surveying HMI, is strong on questions taken from the taxonomies, about empathy, understanding of causal factors and the like, but quite innocent of any guide-lines, let alone commitment, to the possible range and variety of history which might be looked for. It does, however, call for checks on the effectiveness of the main cottage industry of historical pedagogy, the effort to give the subject a basis in the use of primary sources. To judge from the careful phrasing of the survey the results were disappointing; or, rather, and documents were "occasionally" used, "11-year-olds drew on oral sources 'more often' than the younger ones; grandparents had been invited into 'one 11-year-old class'." In summary, we learn: "It was rare to find classes... becoming aware of the nature of historical evidence."

It is to be hoped that these assessments of evidentially based history are arresting enough to lead to discussion about its validity. The objection is not to the truth that the randomness and copying are to be blamed on to poorly organized discovery work, its matched to pupils' abilities, or will we recognize also

Introducing World History. School of Oriental and African Studies. 60p. 0 7286 0051 X. Twentieth Century History. By Tony Howarth. Longman £7.95. 582 22170 6. £3.25. 0 582 221625.

Peace and War Since 1945. By Derek Heater. Harp £1.50. 0 245 53249 8. International Affairs 1890-1939. By R. N. Ruddle.

Modder and Stoughton £2.45 limp. £3.95 boards. 0 340 24336 8 boards. 0 340 23708 2 limp.

An Outline of Modern European History 1870-1951. By Frank O'Hallachain.

The Educational Company of Ireland £3.42. Twentieth Century History 1900-45. By C. A. Leeds.

Macdonald and Evans £1.95. 7121 2025 4.

The Penguin Dictionary of Twentieth Century History 1900-1978. By Alan Palmer.

Penguin paperback £1.75. Allen Lane hardback £6.95. 0 14 051085 0.

There is no need to jettison everything national or traditional in introducing world history; just enough to make sure that the topics covered can be seen in the context of related changes elsewhere, and that the interaction between different areas of the world can be demonstrated. What the handbook could have made clearer is that the emphasis on this country will of necessity still remain European despite the global perspective, unless we have Africans, Asians or Americans to teach and write our history. Nor should it be otherwise.

Its suggestions for world history syllabuses and details of those pro-

Continued overleaf

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Continued overleaf

TAKING A LARGER VIEW

World history and national history do not confront us with diverging paths, writes Richard Tames

"When God intends some new and great epoch in human history, what does He then but reveal Himself to his servants, and us His manner is, first in His Englishman?" (Milton)

The case for world history rests, at least in part, on the inadequacy of national history. Anyone who believes that history, the perceived "tide of events" in some general sense, is foregrounded by—or even greatly affected by—what happens in Britain now, holds a very peculiar view of reality. Yet many syllabuses in history still seem to be predicated upon this view.

Keynes' famous observation that most practical men of business are in fact slaves to the past, and that of some long-dead economist, can be applied with some validity to practical teachers of history. If the curriculum is, in effect, what teachers do, it is determined, as far as history is concerned, in large part, by their own historical education at university or college level—whether or not this is in any way relevant to the pedagogic objectives which are or might be thought to be valid for history at the secondary level.

The real question ought not to be "how much of what university-level history is our secondary school students brought to comprehend?" but rather "what distinctive contribution can a teacher with an historical education make to the general intellectual development of his pupils?" All too often, however, teachers seem simply to try to teach what they were taught, diluting and bowdlerizing as appropriate, without thought of their rationale in terms of objectives. Reflecting, in a sort of refracted way, the best of the best of the empiricism of the English historical tradition, they seem to assume that history just is—a great mound of facts to be cut up, sorted, packaged and otherwise made palatable to reluctant consumers. Until British history teachers are prepared to think really hard about what they teach and why, any talk of "standards" in relation to the discipline will be meaningless and the strictures which the HMI team recently applied to primary school history work, in terms of its total lack of progression, will continue to apply with equal force to most secondary schools. I am not saying that no

significant intellectual development takes place as a result of current conventional history teaching. I am saying that in so far as it does, it does so in ways which are rarely foreseen or planned and seldom assessed with any accuracy or to much purpose. Most of us simply claim to "know" when someone is "good at history."

Given then that most teachers' historical education has been heavily based (or do I mean biased?) on British history because that is what British historians have primarily been interested in, the nationalistic perspective has been the almost inevitable outcome (like most historians I can never use the word "inevitable" without some qualification). And perspective is what such an education sadly lacks. "History makes men wise," claimed Bacon. Really? Most school history seems content to make you remember. And what you remember, if you do, is a highly selective view of one nation's past. One need never encounter the intellectual problem of selection which lies at the heart of historical writing or even pause to consider whether a "nation" is the appropriate framework within which history should be written.

British history has moreover often been presented in a manner which violently distorts some of the most profound and significant features of "Our Island Story", and in particular the linkages between Britain and the rest of the world.

While one can reasonably write an account of the first 2,000 years of Chinese history without paying much attention to anywhere else, to do this to Britain's history is to violate its essence. The history of Britain between 0, much-loved dates 55 BC and 1066 is little more than the story of a small island in the North Sea, a tiny speck of land, a small group of people, and who brought with them their languages, customs, beliefs and institutions. The succeeding five centuries see Britain as an integral, if eccentric, part of Catholic Christendom, and the past five have been dominated by our relationship with the world beyond that Christendom. And those five centuries have witnessed, moreover, the most remarkable, and unremarked, triumph of our nation: the ascendancy of the English language, not as the world's most spoken language, but as its most

widely-spoken language. How many children leave school without the slightest awareness that 400 years ago only the English spoke English and only the Japanese spoke Japanese? And now the Japanese speak English—even to our EEC partners. And the linguistic vehicle of an emerging global mass-culture is simply taken for granted in the land of its birth.

So my first reason for taking a larger view of history is so that we can improve our teaching of British history.



An Obeah man in Jamaica sketched in the late nineteenth century, one of the illustrations in "The West Indian Heritage: a history of the West Indies" by Jack Watson (Murray, £2.50, 0195 3541), intended as a textbook series for West Indian readers who wish to know something of their heritage.

My second is that, if history is to develop in our pupils a sense of perspective and the ability to discern a landscape of human development through a forest of facts, we need to stimulate in our pupils a willingness to understand and analyse very different cultures so that they might better come to comprehend their own.

I am not trying to pretend that this is not rather old hat. Indeed,

I shall unblinkingly quote an old teacher in support of my view: "Whatever the topic selected for inclusion in the Senior school course, it is desirable that the teacher should so present them that his pupils can see them against a background of world history. Thus, the story of our kind and kin beyond the seas, of their successes and struggles, of the great deeds they have accomplished, of the development of the lands in which they have settled, or which they have administered, should be presented as an important and integral part of the story of the British peoples as a whole. But even British history only becomes intelligible when the pupil realises its place in the story of the world. When dealing, therefore, with the history of the British Dominions and Colonies, the teacher will have abundant opportunity to bring home to his class the fact that they cannot learn British history without learning it as part of a larger whole, and that their sympathy and respect are due to other races and peoples with whom they are allies or rivals, fellow-colonists, rulers or traders. Englishmen have had, and still have, so many dealings. A respect for other civilisations than that of Western Europe will best grow out of a knowledge, however small, of their history. Even to hear once that the Chinese were a cultured people who our ancestors were savages may exercise a lasting effect on the outlook of a child."

Board of Education, *Handbook of Suggestions for Teachers 1944* reprint of 1937 edition pp. 415-6.

I wouldn't let Sino-British relations rest on the last assertion but equally I wouldn't discount it altogether. In education you can't guarantee anything—not even failure.

While world history is not British, or even European history with exotic knobs on, it does not mean jettisoning British history or even moving it from the centre of the curriculum.

Teachers should be content to move towards world history by stages, moving "outwards" with growing confidence, year by year, from their "base-area" of knowledge into newly acquired realms of expertise.

The enlargement of one's historical perspective requires a new deal of work. Let no one doubt that. One must take encouragement from the fact that, intellectually speaking, one is "fighting the flab" and, like jogging or dieting, it's often easier to do in company. A history department

committed, as a department, to broadening its syllabuses can do far more effectively than can individual members working alone.

World history and national history do not, in other words, diverge but rather with the problem of building bridges between them.

One of the big problems of history is that there's so much of it. And this is still true even when we accept Sellers and Yeatman's dictum that "history is not what happened, it's what you can remember." Enlarging our horizons from national to world history obviously makes matters worse, terms of sheer volume. Now one might (though I haven't seen it argued) that there's no reason why the school curriculum should contain at least one subject which does rely heavily on memory, which does assume that the learner can mop up facts like a sponge. Good memory is a useful instrument. Why not recognize it as such? Nevertheless, the educational sentiment would be to make the most of the view. And, in important, teaching us by attempting to teach, by "coming to the ground" would so immerse in the task of absorbing information that it would divert us from the more important tasks of asking questions where the information comes from and what can be done with it?

I am therefore strongly in favour of Lord Acton's view that "the study of history" should not be a burden on the memory but a illumination of the soul." We must have practical lessons, and these from due to Atoms from Plato. We must select. But how? On what grounds? Answering the questions will be time-consuming for any teacher. But the attempt, if accompanied by self-reflection, will reveal his/her most basic assumptions about the nature of history and the objectives of history teaching. It ought not to be too unreasonable to require of a teacher of any discipline that he should be able to justify what he does in his own terms than simply to say that he has always done it that way. We must be able to say why we teach X and not Y. Or, if we do it another way, we ought to be able to explain, if only to ourselves, what answers our teaching will give to the questions that our pupils ask. Or, if that sounds too idealistic, in the questions we think they ought to ask.

Richard Tames is Deputy Director of Extramural Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

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WARWICKSFIELD
LONGLEAS CHATEAU

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 (312) 937-0000 (TOLL FREE)
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See under Independence

Physical Education

DEADLY DEPARTURES—The annual departure of students from the U.S. is a time of high incidence of infectious diseases. The following are some of the diseases that have been reported in the past few years:

- **Measles**—A highly contagious virus that causes a fever, cough, and rash. It is preventable by vaccination.
- **Scarlet fever**—A bacterial infection that causes a fever, sore throat, and a red, itchy rash.
- **Diphtheria**—A bacterial infection that causes a thick coating in the throat and can lead to heart failure.
- **Polio**—A viral infection that can cause paralysis.
- **Hepatitis A**—A viral infection that causes inflammation of the liver.
- **Shingles**—A viral infection that causes a painful, itchy rash.
- **Chickenpox**—A viral infection that causes a fever and a rash.
- **German measles**—A viral infection that causes a fever and a rash.
- **Whooping cough**—A bacterial infection that causes severe coughing fits.
- **Strep throat**—A bacterial infection that causes a sore throat and fever.
- **Mononucleosis**—A viral infection that causes a fever, sore throat, and swollen lymph nodes.
- **Rotavirus**—A viral infection that causes diarrhea and vomiting.
- **Adenovirus**—A viral infection that causes a fever, cough, and sore throat.
- **Herpes**—A viral infection that causes a fever and a rash.
- **Varicella**—A viral infection that causes chickenpox.
- **MMR**—Measles, Mumps, and Rubella vaccine.
- **MMRV**—Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella vaccine.
- **DTaP**—Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis vaccine.
- **Polio**—Poliovirus vaccine.
- **HepA**—Hepatitis A vaccine.
- **Shingles**—Shingles vaccine.
- **Chickenpox**—Chickenpox vaccine.
- **German measles**—German measles vaccine.
- **Whooping cough**—Whooping cough vaccine.
- **Strep throat**—Strep throat vaccine.
- **Mononucleosis**—Mononucleosis vaccine.
- **Rotavirus**—Rotavirus vaccine.
- **Adenovirus**—Adenovirus vaccine.
- **Herpes**—Herpes vaccine.
- **Varicella**—Varicella vaccine.

THE IMPORTANCE OF VACCINATIONS—Vaccinations are the best way to prevent infectious diseases. They work by training the immune system to recognize and fight off the disease-causing agent. Vaccinations are safe and effective, and they can save lives. It is important to make sure that your child is up to date on all recommended vaccinations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION—Contact your local health department or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at 1-800-232-4636.

THE HEALTHY CHILD—A healthy child is a happy child. Make sure your child is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY PARENT—A healthy parent is a happy parent. Make sure you are healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY COMMUNITY—A healthy community is a happy community. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY FUTURE—A healthy future is a bright future. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY WORLD—A healthy world is a peaceful world. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY UNIVERSE—A healthy universe is a beautiful universe. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY GOD—A healthy God is a loving God. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY SPIRIT—A healthy spirit is a strong spirit. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY HEART—A healthy heart is a strong heart. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY MIND—A healthy mind is a strong mind. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY BODY—A healthy body is a strong body. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY SOUL—A healthy soul is a strong soul. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY LIFE—A healthy life is a strong life. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY DEATH—A healthy death is a strong death. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY AFTERLIFE—A healthy afterlife is a strong afterlife. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY ETERNITY—A healthy eternity is a strong eternity. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY INFINITY—A healthy infinity is a strong infinity. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY OMNIPOTENCE—A healthy omnipotence is a strong omnipotence. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

THE HEALTHY OMNISCIENCE—A healthy omniscience is a strong omniscience. Make sure everyone is healthy by keeping up with regular checkups and vaccinations.

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Paul Wetherby, Director
Lincolnshire Road Show
c/o Mr. Keay, Lincoln Job Centre
Crown House, Danesgate
Lincoln Tel.: (0522) 58227



THE METHODIST CHURCH DIVISION OF EDUCATION AND YOUTH NORTHERN REGION

REGIONAL YOUTH OFFICER

The Methodist Church is looking for a trained and experienced person to fill a vacancy in the field staff appointments. The Regional Youth Officer will be responsible for recruiting, training and supporting volunteer youth and community workers, in consultation with Methodist Ministers and other groups. The post provides opportunities for people with initiative and drive to develop new areas of work for young people and to explore and take agreed action to maintain a Christian Education programme in the Church's Youth Work.

Salary—Soubury, main range, for youth service officers, 12-16.
Further details and application form from:
David Pandle, MDEY(T), 2 Chesler House, Pages Lane,
London, N10 1PR.
Closing date for applications—December 17th, 1979.

Brighton Technical College

SENIOR OFFICER (ADMINISTRATION)

Salary S.O. 2 £6,264 to £6,627

Responsible to Chief Administrative Officer for management of work relating to student admissions, statistics, examinations, general office services, printing, learning resources and secretarial staff. Applicants must have proven management skills and be able to establish and maintain good inter-personal relationships: previous College experience essential.
Application form and further details available from Personnel Officer, Brighton Technical College, Pelham Street, Brighton BN1 4PA (Telephone 655971, Extension 282).
Closing date 14th December, 1979, Ref. 803.



RESIDENTIAL CHILD CARE OFFICERS

(salary up to £4,776 p.a. incl. if qualified plus London Weighting as appropriate)

Five Points that might interest you:

- We need people who are strong, kind, caring, alert, intelligent, patient, compassionate, and committed to working with children in our care.
- Our aim is to work in close cooperation with field work colleagues towards achieving changes in the child's previous environment which will make possible an early return home.
- Your role would be to work within the staff group to create an atmosphere of safety and warmth for the benefit of children who for a variety of reasons cannot live with their own families or who have to do so.
- This entails work with parents, as well as a wide variety of agencies including juvenile courts, schools, hospitals and child guidance clinics.
- There is a shortage of staff in this area of work and therefore applications from those who are particularly interested are invited.

Application form and further details available from Personnel Officer, Islington Paris & Residence, 103, Islington, London N1 1JH. Closing date: 14th December, 1979.

ADMINISTRATION General continued

LIVERPOOL

CANERS OFFICER
£1,080 to £3,067 per annum
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:
The person appointed will undertake the full range of duties of a senior officer in the area of cancer services. The post holder will be responsible for the management of the service and will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team. The post holder will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team. The post holder will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team.

Closing date 14th December 1979.
Application forms available from the Director of Education, 103, Islington, London N1 1JH.

Child Care

HAMPSHIRE
The person appointed will undertake the full range of duties of a senior officer in the area of child care services. The post holder will be responsible for the management of the service and will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team. The post holder will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team.

Closing date 14th December 1979.
Application forms available from the Director of Education, 103, Islington, London N1 1JH.

OXFORDSHIRE
The person appointed will undertake the full range of duties of a senior officer in the area of education services. The post holder will be responsible for the management of the service and will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team. The post holder will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team.

Closing date 14th December 1979.
Application forms available from the Director of Education, 103, Islington, London N1 1JH.

REGIONAL YOUTH OFFICER
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Closing date 14th December 1979.
Application forms available from the Director of Education, 103, Islington, London N1 1JH.

EXAMINERS
The person appointed will undertake the full range of duties of a senior officer in the area of examinations. The post holder will be responsible for the management of the service and will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team. The post holder will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team.

Closing date 14th December 1979.
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TECHNICAL COLLEGE
The person appointed will undertake the full range of duties of a senior officer in the area of technical education. The post holder will be responsible for the management of the service and will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team. The post holder will be expected to have a wide knowledge of the health service and experience in the management of a large team.

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Closing date 14th December 1979.
Application forms available from the Director of Education, 103, Islington, London N1 1JH.

WALLES EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Appointment of EXAMINERS

Applications are invited from qualified teachers for the following subjects:

MINING
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

TECHNICAL
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

SCIENCE
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

ARTS
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

PHYSICS
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

CHEMISTRY
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

BIOLOGY
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

MATHEMATICS
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

ENGLISH
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

MODERN LANGUAGES
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

CITIZENSHIP
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

PE
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

MUSIC
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

DRAMA
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

TELEVISION
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

RADIO
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

COMPUTER STUDIES
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

DESIGN
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

FOOD TECHNOLOGY
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

TEXTILES
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

WOODWORK
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

METALWORK
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

PLASTERWORK
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

PAINTING
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

SCULPTURE
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

PRINTING
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

BOOKBINDING
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

LIBRARY SCIENCE
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

ARCHAEOLOGY
Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

GLoucestershire EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Appointment of EXAMINERS

Applications are invited from qualified teachers for the following subjects:

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Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

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Candidates should be qualified in the following subjects:

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LIBRARY SCIENCE
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ARCHAEOLOGY
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LEICESTER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Appointment of EXAMINERS

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